

OUR 116TH YEAR

ANDOVER TOWNSMAN

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High hopes
Page 17

Issue No. 17

30 pages

DECEMBER 25, 2003

75 CENTS

BLOCK SCHEDULING at AHS

Going around on the block

Superintendent's interim plan would hire 16 teachers; mixed opinions on value of 82-minute class periods

By Ben Hellman

It's hard for Andover High School senior Laura Craig-Comin to imagine a high school experience that didn't include block scheduling.

The 82-minute class periods allow for a richer learning experience and contribute to "one of the best educations in the state or country," she says.

But for town leaders and others, block scheduling is quite different from the high school experience they remember.

In the AHS schedule, students are in class for 82 minutes. This means that a full-credit course meets every other day, all year long, or every day for half the year.

Leaders say the value of the longer "block" periods cannot be measured against their cost until they know the teacher-to-student ratio for every class at AHS, says selectman Mary Lyman.

That information has been requested, but even after the presentation of approximate classroom sizes by AHS principal Peter Anderson at last week's School Committee meeting, the request has not been met, said Lyman, a former Andover school administrator and School Committee member.

Continued on page 6

Andover lawyer vows to fight

By Shawn Regan

Barbara C. Johnson, the Andover lawyer and fathers' rights activist who ran for governor last year, said she expects to be disbarred from the practice of law after she stormed out of a disciplinary hearing on charges she posted confidential information about divorce and custody cases on her Web site.

Bar Counsel Daniel C. Crane said he expects the Office of Bar Counsel to announce Johnson's fate within two to four months. Lesser options include a public reprimand or suspension of the 69-year-old Johnson's license to practice law in Massachusetts. But given the seriousness of the charges, Johnson herself is convinced she will be disbarred.

"I expect they will revoke my license quickly," Johnson said yesterday. "They can't wait to get rid of me."

Johnson, who ran for governor as an independent, became known for her combative demeanor.

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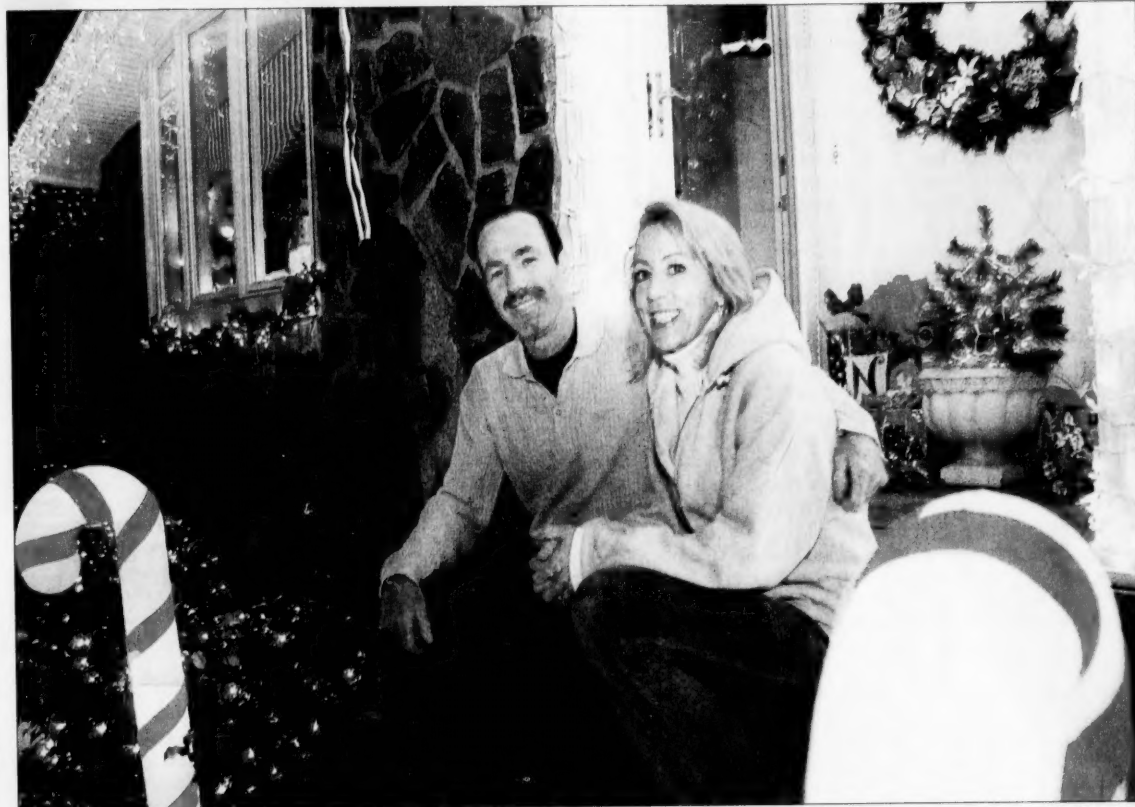


PHOTO BY TIM JEAN

Candy Cane Lane — This time of year, the house at the corner of North Street and Greenwood Road, owned by David and Nancy Fielding, is ablaze with red and white lights too numerous to count, with striped candy canes standing guard.

Lighting up for a good cause

West Andover couple have the spirit with thousands of colored lights

By Judy Wakefield

CHRISTMAS OF LONG AGO meant a car trip to see the best-lit houses at holiday time in her hometown.

"I grew up in the city and every year we used to take a family trip along the Lynn Fells Parkway. And I used to look at all the lights and say when I get my own house, I want to decorate it with lots of lights," said Nancy Fielding, whose ranch at the corner of North Street and Greenwood Road is fulfilling that promise. It's an electric company's dream.

Hands down, she's got one of the best-lit

houses in Andover this holiday season.

Just about every inch of her house is decorated with lights, while several holiday characters and lots of candy canes adorn the grounds and windows.

There are also plenty of kissing balls and decorated wreaths that she makes herself.

The lights are too numerous to count and the electric bill for December is too hefty to think about. All that really matters to Fielding is that perhaps some family drives by and all those lights make passengers happy.

"Sure, it's a lot of work, but when it's all

said and done, it's worth it," said Fielding who has lived at the house for the past nine years.

Each year has brought a few more strings of lights and more decorations, but at least she had help from her daughter, Charlene Fielding, 17, this year.

And, husband David Fielding becomes a roofer just after Thanksgiving as he handles all those roof lights. And he still speaks to her after all that stringing. Their son, David, 18, attends Norwich Academy and wasn't home

Continued on page 5



PHOTO BY TIM JEAN

At the Stevens Street Post Office, there is a special box for mailing letters to Santa. Cara Richardson, 3, with help from her mom, Fiona, is lifted up to deposit a letter she wrote to Santa with an assist from her brothers, Conor and Christian.

Letters to Santa

Post Office makes sure that children's letters handled with care

By Andrea Gregory

BEFORE THE FIRST SNOWFALL OF THE SEASON, letters addressed to Santa were already falling into the open slots of Andover mailboxes all over town.

By late last week, hundreds of handwritten wish lists and colorful Christmas drawings addressed to the North Pole had been created by local children, and the staff at the Andover Post Office on Stevens Street says that each letter was handled with care.

"This time of year, everybody knows where Santa is — the Post Office," said Chris Whynot, supervisor of customer service at the Stevens Street Post Office.

Whynot said all mail for Santa leaving from Andover makes a stop by the Stevens Street location. He said a few hundred letters can be expected every Christmas season. This year, Andover has handled about 200 letters intended for the North Pole, home of the big man in the red suit.

"We find them in mailboxes, the carriers bring them back and sometimes people bring them in," said Whynot. "The carriers go out of their way, if they bring one back, to give it to us immediately."

"It's been a good year," said Bob Collins, a letter carrier who handles the Shawshen Road area. Collins said he has picked up at least 15 letters for Santa.

The Stevens Street Post Office has a designated box for Santa mail, but as long as the letter makes it into the Andover mail system in some way before Christmas, it should be fine, said Whynot.

"As long as they mail them, we'll take care of them," said Bob Kerrigan, Andover postmaster.

Still, some kids are not taking any chances, according to Kerrigan.

"We even had one come in and process (a letter to Santa) express mail," he said.

But what happens to all of

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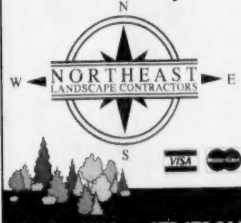
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TOWN LAW

TAXES AND FEES

When are fees legal? When are they not?

Columns written by town counsel under the banner "Town Law" appear from time to time and are intended to highlight certain points of municipal law, particularly as they might relate to Andover. The articles are meant to be a public service and are written at no cost to the town of Andover or the Andover Townsman newspaper.

By Thomas J. Urbelis

On a periodic basis, the selectmen establish the rate at which owners of real estate will be subject to a real property tax which was created by the legislature. What's the basis for requiring persons who own real estate to pay money into the town's general fund, while someone who does not own real property is not required to do so? Does the owner receive some particular benefit of municipal services that a non-owner does not receive? Is that a fair method for a municipality to raise revenue? Is it legal? Does the power to create such a tax in the first instance reside with the town or the legislature? Can Town Meeting or the Board of Selectmen establish a new property tax? Can the town require people to pay a certain percentage of their incomes to the town's general fund?

The response to those questions, as a general proposition, is that only the legislature can create a tax as a means of generating revenue, while a municipality can create some fees to compensate the municipality for providing particular services to individuals who receive such services. However, on occasion, the line which separates a tax (which a municipality may not impose) from a fee (which a municipality may impose) can become blurred.

In a recent case involving the city of Fall River, a licensed funeral director filed a lawsuit against the city and its board of health, alleging that the \$20 bur-

ial permit fee charged by the city was, in fact, not a fee for services but an illegal tax, which had not been enacted by the legislature. Before a dead body may be interred, state law requires that a burial permit must be obtained from the local board of health or the town clerk of the town where the person died. To obtain the permit, the applicant must present a valid death certificate, and in Fall River, the applicant must pay a \$20 fee which the city created. The fees are deposited into a general account of the city of Fall River.

The trial court concluded that the burial permit charge was a valid regulatory fee, and not an unlawful tax. However, based upon the record presented to it, the Massachusetts Appeals Court overturned that decision and said the Fall River burial permit charge exhibits characteristics of a tax rather than of a fee. The Court explained that under the Massachusetts Constitution, municipalities do not have an independent power of taxation; however, they may impose fees.

To determine whether a government exaction is a fee or a tax, the Court considered the following factors: (1) a fee is charged in exchange for a governmental service that benefits the party paying the fee in a manner not shared by other members of society; (2) a fee is paid by choice, in that the fee payer has the option of not utilizing the governmental service and thereby avoiding the charge; and (3) a fee is collected not to raise revenues but to compensate the governmental entity providing the service.

The Court pointed out that in other cases where municipal charges have been determined to be valid fees rather than taxes, the fee has been for a particular service provided to a discrete group such as: a fee paid by a landlord to petition for rent adjustment was for a particular service benefiting the landlord;

an electrical hookup charge was assessed only to new or expanded customers, and therefore there was sufficient particularization because new or expanded customers received the specific benefit of new or expanded electricity; a fee could be charged to people choosing to moor a boat; a charge for follow-up from a town communications center on electronic alarm signals was particularized to users and, therefore, allowed. In contrast, the Court decided in a previous case that providing school facilities is not particularized to an individual, because it is government's obligation to provide such facilities out of general revenue funds.

In the Fall River case, since the public benefits resulting from a regulated system of disposal of human remains cannot be seriously contested, the Court decided that the issuance of the burial permit does not benefit a permit seeker in a particular manner which is not shared by the general public.

The Court, therefore, decided that on the record before it, the burial permit charge was better characterized as a (prohibited) tax rather than a (permissible) fee because: the payer of the fee derives no benefit that is not shared by the general public, proper interment is mandatory by state law, the burial permit is mandatory by state law, and, perhaps most importantly, it did not appear in the trial court record that the funds are used in Fall River to defray the cost of enforcing the particular regulations.

Thus, without the approval of the legislature, Fall River cannot require such a payment. However, the Court made it clear that the question of whether a charge is a tax or a fee is to be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Thomas J. Urbelis is Andover Town Counsel and a former President of the Massachusetts City Solicitors and Town Counsel Association.

Local lawyer fights removal

■ BARBARA C. JOHNSON

Continued from page 1

raspy voice and disheveled appearance in several televised gubernatorial debates leading up to the 2002 election. A former textbook editor and consultant, she has been a member of the Massachusetts Bar since 1987.

She claims the bar counsel and the Board of Bar Overseers have been "after her" ever since she campaigned for governor on a platform of court reform, including an end to judicial immunity, which protects judges from being sued over their rulings.

The Office of Bar Counsel — an independent body that works with the state Supreme Judicial Court in prosecuting lawyers — notified Johnson earlier this year that it was seeking a disciplinary hearing stemming from complaints from two of Johnson's former clients and a contempt of court order from a judge. The bar counsel's decision can be appealed first to the Board of Bar Overseers and then to the Supreme Judicial Court.

Johnson's participation in what was supposed to be a three-day public hearing by the bar counsel began and ended Dec. 2, shortly after she began her opening statement. The proceedings were closed to the public, and Johnson's supporters and witnesses were ordered to leave after Johnson repeatedly mentioned the names of children and others whose identities were protected by law, despite numerous warnings to stop, Crane said.

After the hearing was closed, Johnson also left the courtroom, though she was told she could stay, Crane said. She said mentioning the names of the "protected" individuals was "a slip of the tongue" and that she left with the public because she didn't trust the board to keep an honest record of the hearing. She later posted on her Web site the names of the people she mentioned at the hearing, at least one whom was under the protection of a court order.

The bar counsel's complaint alleges Johnson published confidential information about the



PHOTO BY CARL RUSSO

Attorney Barbara Johnson of Andover, independent candidate for Massachusetts governor in the 2002 election, claims the bar counsel and the Board of Bar Overseers have been "after her" ever since the fathers' rights activist campaigned for governor on a platform of court reform.

ex-wife of a client accused of sexually and physically abusing his young son. The information was posted on the Internet to "embarrass or burden" the boy's mother, who was at the time running for public office in Bristol County, the complaint alleges.

Johnson's Web site, www.falseallegations.com, promotes the cause of fathers she says are falsely accused of abuse in divorce and child custody cases. It also answers legal questions for a fee — starting at \$10 for a "yes" or "no" answer — and sells "sexually explicit" movie scripts to help support the site.

In a second complaint against her, Johnson is accused of failing to deposit a \$10,000 check from a client into a trust fund. The complaint further alleges Johnson withheld \$7,575 from a client without securing a signed fee agreement. The complaint alleges the bill was "inaccurate and intentionally false." When

her client complained to the Bar about the bill, Johnson posted confidential information about the case on her Web site.

The third charge is that Johnson failed to turn over discovery evidence to opposing counsel after being ordered to do so by a judge.

Although she had planned to retire a year ago, Johnson said she now wants to continue practicing law on behalf of those who cannot afford private attorneys. She said she plans to fight disbarment, if that is the board's decision, all the way to the SJC.

"I have a tremendous pro bono practice," she said. "What's upsetting is that if they take away my law license, I won't be able to continue helping poor people, like the ones who visit my Web site. Whom will they rely on?"

Johnson said she intends to file a federal lawsuit against the bar counsel and the bar overseers.

"I will be suing for millions and if I get the money, years down the line, I will be setting up a fund to help change the system and get better representation for poor people," she said.

FIRST BIRTHDAY PHOTOS & WRITE-UPS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE

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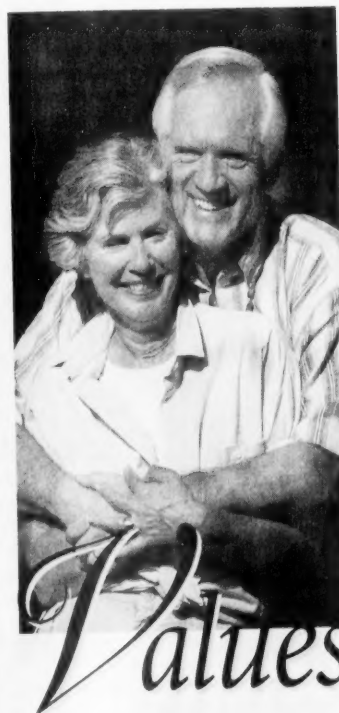
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Camera-ready advertising copy is due by Tuesday at noon.
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IN BRIEF

PAST AND PRESENT



OLDER PHOTO AND INFORMATION COURTESY OF ANDOVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY. MODERN-DAY PHOTO BY TIM JEAN.

Frye Village was started in 1718, with Samuel Frye establishing a saw mill there. John Smith started the machine shop seen in the top photo in 1816, on the east side of the Shawsheen River, presently the site of 16 Haverhill St. The photo looks south, and one can see the Haverhill Street bridge and a brick pump house. Frye Village was renamed Shawsheen Village in 1918 when the American Woolen Company redeveloped it. The bottom photo shows the same general area today.

Legislators awarded

Area legislators were honored recently for their support of legal aid for low-income people in the community. State Sen. Susan Tucker received a "Pillar of Justice" certificate during a ceremony hosted by Neighborhood Legal Services (NLS) and Merrimack Valley Legal Services (MVLS). Also receiving awards were Andover's state Reps. Barry Finegold and Barbara L'Italien.

The legislators were honored for restoring \$7.6 million in state funding to legal aid earlier this year, including \$1.08 million for NLS and \$750,000 for MVLS.

MVLS and NLS provide free legal help to low-income residents of Essex County in non-criminal, or civil, cases. Among those helped by the program are domestic violence victims, people unfairly denied health care or disability benefits, parents being challenged for custody of their children, elders facing foreclosure on their home, special needs and disabled children deprived of educational entitlements, and child victims of abuse and neglect. While low-income people in criminal cases have a right to a court-appointed attorney, in civil cases they rely on legal aid programs like NLS and MVLS. But for the legislature's override, NLS would have been forced to close one of its two full service field offices, lay off staff, and serve 600 to 800 fewer families, according to a release.

Early Townsman deadline

The *Townsman* will have early deadlines for its New Year's week paper, printed Dec. 30. Advertising copy will be due on Friday, Dec. 26. School, social and entertainment submissions will also be due Friday, Dec. 26, at noon. Letters to the editor submitted by fax or mail should be submitted by Friday at noon. Letters sent by e-mail should be sent by 5 p.m.

Quote, unquote . . .

WE EVEN HAD ONE COME IN and process (a letter to Santa) express mail.

— Bob Kerrigan, Andover postmaster, talking about the number of people who send letters to Santa this time of year. (Story, page 1)

NOW I KNOW HE COOKS. He ruined that for the rest of our marriage.

— Adele Teves, whose husband, Dennis, had not cooked during their first 36 years of marriage, asked him to learn when he was laid off. Dennis Teves is working again, but his wife says she expects him to continue cooking because "Now I'm kind of spoiled, I must admit." Their story netted them \$1,000 in a recent contest. (Story in Townspeople, page 13)

I'VE SEEN A TREND FOR MORE COLOR this year, but typically Andover wants clear lights.

— Bill Ferris of Vale Landscaping, who strings the lights at many homes in town for the holidays. (Story, page 1)

News Calendar

Monday, Jan. 5

Board of Health, Town Offices, second floor, 6-9 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 6

Planning Board, Town Offices, third floor, 7:30 p.m.

School Committee, School Administration Building, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 8

Main Street Streetscape Subcommittee, Town Offices, second floor, 9 a.m.

Zoning Board of Appeals, Memorial Hall Library, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 10

Zoning Board of Appeals, deliberation meeting, Memorial Hall Library, 9 a.m.

Census: Going away? Let town clerk know

The annual town census will be mailed to residents at the beginning of January 2004.

Anyone who is leaving town for an extended period of time should contact the town clerk's office at 978-623-8257 so they will not be dropped from the census rolls. The town census is the only legal way clerks can verify residency. Increasingly, the town clerk's office receives

requests for residency verification, especially to prove residency for public school admittance, according to Randy Hanson, town clerk. Also, all registered voters must verify residency each year to remain on the voter rolls per state law.

Final December health clinic

The final senior-center clinic of the year will be held 2 to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 31.

An appointment is not necessary.

Renew dog license in January, or pay more

Dog license renewal notices were sent to resident dog owners in mid-December. The dog tags for 2004 are now available and the cost per license is \$10.

Dog licenses should be renewed during the month of January. An administrative fee will begin March 1. According to a Town Meeting bylaw, anyone renewing a dog license after February will pay a cumulative

administrative fee of \$2 per month.

Residents may register their dogs at the town clerk's office from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. They may also register through the mail by sending a check payable to the Town of Andover for \$10 and a current rabies certificate, to Town Clerk's Office, 36 Bartlett St., Andover, 01810.

Questions? Call the town clerk's office at 978-623-8257.

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The response to those questions, as a general proposition, is that only the legislature can create a tax as a means of generating revenue, while a municipality can create some fees to compensate the municipality for providing particular services to individuals who receive such services. However, on occasion, the line which separates a tax (which a municipality may not impose) from a fee (which a municipality may impose) can become blurred.

In a recent case involving the city of Fall River, a licensed funeral director filed a lawsuit against the city and its board of health, alleging that the \$20 bur-

ial permit fee charged by the city was, in fact, not a fee for services but an illegal tax, which had not been enacted by the legislature. Before a dead body may be interred, state law requires that a burial permit must be obtained from the local board of health or the town clerk of the town where the person died. To obtain the permit, the applicant must present a valid death certificate, and in Fall River, the applicant must pay a \$20 fee which the city created. The fees are deposited into a general account of the city of Fall River.

The trial court concluded that the burial permit charge was a valid regulatory fee, and not an unlawful tax. However, based upon the record presented to it, the Massachusetts Appeals Court overturned that decision and said the Fall River burial permit charge exhibits characteristics of a tax rather than of a fee. The Court explained that under the Massachusetts Constitution, municipalities do not have an independent power of taxation; however, they may impose fees.

To determine whether a government exaction is a fee or a tax, the Court considered the following factors: (1) a fee is charged in exchange for a governmental service that benefits the party paying the fee in a manner not shared by other members of society; (2) a fee is paid by choice, in that the fee payer has the option of not utilizing the governmental service and thereby avoiding the charge; and (3) a fee is collected not to raise revenues but to compensate the governmental entity providing the service.

The Court pointed out that in other cases where municipal charges have been determined to be valid fees rather than taxes, the fee has been for a particular service provided to a discrete group such as: a fee paid by a landlord to petition for rent adjustment was for a particular service benefiting the landlord;

an electrical hookup charge was assessed only to new or expanded customers, and therefore there was sufficient particularization because new or expanded customers received the specific benefit of new or expanded electricity; a fee could be charged to people choosing to moor a boat; a charge for follow-up from a town communications center on electronic alarm signals was particularized to users and, therefore, allowed. In contrast, the Court decided in a previous case that providing school facilities is not particularized to an individual, because it is government's obligation to provide such facilities out of general revenue funds.

In the Fall River case, since the public benefits resulting from a regulated system of disposal of human remains cannot be seriously contested, the Court decided that the issuance of the burial permit does not benefit a permit seeker in a particular manner which is not shared by the general public.

The Court, therefore, decided that on the record before it, the burial permit charge was better characterized as a (prohibited) tax rather than a (permissible) fee because the payer of the fee derives no benefit that is not shared by the general public, proper interment is mandatory by state law, the burial permit is mandatory by state law, and, perhaps most importantly, it did not appear in the trial court record that the funds are used in Fall River to defray the cost of enforcing the particular regulations.

Thus, without the approval of the legislature, Fall River cannot require such a payment. However, the Court made it clear that the question of whether a charge is a tax or a fee is to be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Thomas J. Urbelis is Andover Town Counsel and a former President of the Massachusetts City Solicitors and Town Counsel Association.

Local lawyer fights removal

■ BARBARA C. JOHNSON

Continued from page 1

raspy voice and disheveled appearance in several televised gubernatorial debates leading up to the 2002 election. A former textbook editor and consultant, she has been a member of the Massachusetts Bar since 1987.

She claims the bar counsel and the Board of Bar Overseers have been "after her" ever since she campaigned for governor on a platform of court reform, including an end to judicial immunity, which protects judges from being sued over their rulings.

The Office of Bar Counsel — an independent body that works with the state Supreme Judicial Court in prosecuting lawyers — notified Johnson earlier this year that it was seeking a disciplinary hearing stemming from complaints from two of Johnson's former clients and a contempt of court order from a judge. The bar counsel's decision can be appealed first to the Board of Bar Overseers and then to the Supreme Judicial Court.

Johnson's participation in what was supposed to be a three-day public hearing by the bar counsel began and ended Dec. 2, shortly after she began her opening statement. The proceedings were closed to the public, and Johnson's supporters and witnesses were ordered to leave after Johnson repeatedly mentioned the names of children and others whose identities were protected by law, despite numerous warnings to stop, Crane said.

After the hearing was closed, Johnson also left the courtroom, though she was told she could stay, Crane said. She said mentioning the names of the "protected" individuals was "a slip of the tongue" and that she left with the public because she didn't trust the board to keep an honest record of the hearing. She later posted on her Web site the names of the people she mentioned at the hearing, at least one whom was under the protection of a court order.

The bar counsel's complaint alleges Johnson published confidential information about the



PHOTO BY CARL RUSSO

Attorney Barbara Johnson of Andover, independent candidate for Massachusetts governor in the 2002 election, claims the bar counsel and the Board of Bar Overseers have been "after her" ever since the fathers' rights activist campaigned for governor on a platform of court reform.

ex-wife of a client accused of sexually and physically abusing his young son. The information was posted on the Internet to "embarrass or burden" the boy's mother, who was at the time running for public office in Bristol County, the complaint alleges.

Johnson's Web site, www.falseallegations.com, promotes the cause of fathers she says are falsely accused of abuse in divorce and child custody cases. It also answers legal questions for a fee — starting at \$10 for a "yes" or "no" answer — and sells "sexually explicit" movie scripts to help support the site.

In a second complaint against her, Johnson is accused of failing to deposit a \$10,000 check from a client into a trust fund. The complaint further alleges Johnson withheld \$7,575 from a client without securing a signed fee agreement. The complaint alleges the bill was "inaccurate and intentionally false." When

her client complained to the Bar about the bill, Johnson posted confidential information about the case on her Web site.

The third charge is that Johnson failed to turn over discovery evidence to opposing counsel after being ordered to do so by a judge.

Although she had planned to retire a year ago, Johnson said she now wants to continue practicing law on behalf of those who cannot afford private attorneys. She said she plans to fight disbarment, if that is the board's decision, all the way to the SJC. "I have a tremendous pro bono practice," she said. "What's upsetting is that if they take away my law license, I won't be able to continue helping poor people, like the ones who visit my Web site. Whom will they rely on?"

Johnson said she intends to file a federal lawsuit against the bar counsel and the bar overseers.

"I will be suing for millions and if I get the money, years down the line, I will be setting up a fund to help change the system and get better representation for poor people," she said.

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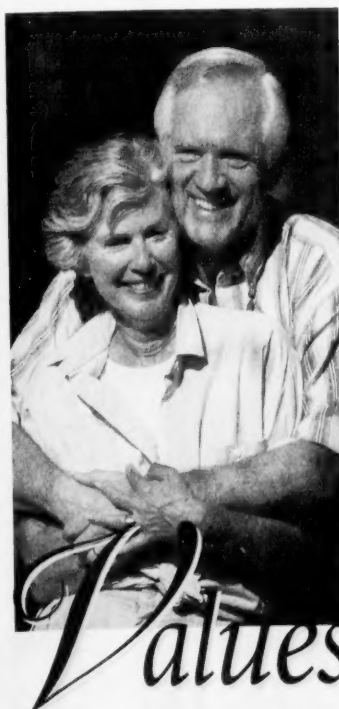
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IN BRIEF

PAST AND PRESENT



OLDER PHOTO AND INFORMATION COURTESY OF ANDOVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY. MODERN DAY PHOTO BY TIM JEAN

Frye Village was started in 1718, with Samuel Frye establishing a saw mill there. John Smith started the machine shop seen in the top photo in 1816, on the east side of the Shawsheen River, presently the site of 16 Haverhill St. The photo looks south, and one can see the Haverhill Street bridge and a brick pump house. Frye Village was renamed Shawsheen Village in 1918 when the American Woolen Company redeveloped it. The bottom photo shows the same general area today.

Legislators awarded

Area legislators were honored recently for their support of legal aid for low-income people in the community. State Sen. Susan Tucker received a "Pillar of Justice" certificate during a ceremony hosted by Neighborhood Legal Services (NLS) and Merrimack Valley Legal Services (MVLS). Also receiving awards were Andover's state Reps. Barry Finegold and Barbara L'Italien.

The legislators were honored for restoring \$7.6 million in state funding to legal aid earlier this year, including \$1.08 million for NLS and \$750,000 for MVLS.

MVLS and NLS provide free legal help to low-income residents of Essex County in non-criminal, or civil, cases. Among those helped by the program are domestic violence victims, people unfairly denied health care or disability benefits, parents being challenged for custody of their children, elders facing foreclosure on their home, special needs and disabled children deprived of educational entitlements, and child victims of abuse and neglect. While low-income people in criminal cases have a right to a court-appointed attorney, in civil cases they rely on legal aid programs like NLS and MVLS. But for the legislature's override, NLS would have been forced to close one of its two full service field offices, lay off staff, and serve 600 to 800 fewer families, according to a release.

Early Townsman deadline

The *Townsman* will have early deadlines for its New Year's week paper, printed Dec. 30. Advertising copy will be due on Friday, Dec. 26. School, social and entertainment submissions will also be due Friday, Dec. 26, at noon. Letters to the editor submitted by fax or mail should be submitted by Friday at noon. Letters sent by e-mail should be sent by 5 p.m.

Quote, unquote . . .

WE EVEN HAD ONE COME IN and process (a letter to Santa) express mail.

— Bob Kerrigan, Andover postmaster, talking about the number of people who send letters to Santa this time of year. (Story, page 1)

NOW I KNOW HE COOKS. He ruined that for the rest of our marriage.

— Adele Teves, whose husband, Dennis, had not cooked during their first 36 years of marriage, asked him to learn when he was laid off. Dennis Teves is working again, but his wife says she expects him to continue cooking because "Now I'm kind of spoiled, I must admit." Their story netted them \$1,000 in a recent contest. (Story in Townspeople, page 13)

I'VE SEEN A TREND FOR MORE COLOR this year, but typically Andover wants clear lights.

— Bill Ferris of Vale Landscaping, who strings the lights at many homes in town for the holidays. (Story, page 1)

News Calendar

Monday, Jan. 5

Board of Health, Town Offices, second floor, 6-9 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 6

Planning Board, Town Offices, third floor, 7:30 p.m.

School Committee, School Administration Building, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 8

Main Street Streetscape Subcommittee, Town Offices, second floor, 9 a.m.

Zoning Board of Appeals, Memorial Hall Library, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 10

Zoning Board of Appeals, deliberation meeting, Memorial Hall Library, 9 a.m.

Census: Going away? Let town clerk know

The annual town census will be mailed to residents at the beginning of January 2004.

Anyone who is leaving town for an extended period of time should contact the town clerk's office at 978-623-8257 so they will not be dropped from the census rolls. The town census is the only legal way clerks can verify residency. Increasingly, the town clerk's office receives

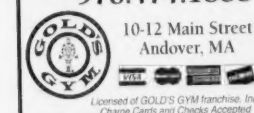
requests for residency verification, especially to prove residency for public school admittance, according to Randy Hanson, town clerk. Also, all registered voters must verify residency each year to remain on the voter rolls per state law.

Final December health clinic

The final senior-center clinic of the year will be held 2 to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 31.

An appointment is not necessary.

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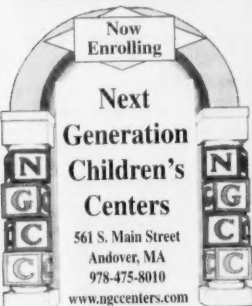
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Coachman's Ridge

Feeling priced out?

By Andrea Gregory

If all you want for Christmas is a new home, Santa might not be able to deliver, but a little luck early next year could do the

trick.

Andover's pricey real estate market could be an obstacle for some people trying to become homeowners. House prices here

can reach millions of dollars, and condominium prices are in the hundreds of thousands. Not everyone's bank account or financial situation can handle the purchase of a home.

Coachman's Ridge, a Pulte Homes development to be built at 170 Haverhill St., is raffling off 20 affordable homes. Qualified winners will have the chance to purchase a newly built condominium — one-bedroom units for \$135,000 and two bedrooms for \$155,000.

Market rate units are selling for at least twice as much.

Andover recently reached its state mandated affordable housing quota, surpassing the 10 percent threshold. In towns and cities with less than 10 percent affordable housing, developers can skirt around local zoning regulations in exchange for 25 percent of the units selling or renting below market value under Ch. 40B — also known as the "anti-snob zoning law."

Once an appeal period passes, Andover can count the units, but when new residents who would otherwise not be able to purchase Andover real estate are welcomed into the community the benefits begin to show.

"I just think that it's wonderful for people who grew up or live in Andover who are just priced out," said Maureen Gates, sales associate with Pulte Homes. "This allows them to stay in a nice town and great community."

New to the 40B scene and raffling off homes, Gates said it is a learning experience for the company.

"This is the first time we've done this," she said. "I don't

know how many (applicants) we expect."

Gates said so far about 50 people have inquired about the affordable units or took applications. She said some of those people might realize they don't qualify during the application process.

But there could also be a lot more than 50 people taking a chance on moving to Coachman's Ridge at an affordable rate, given the deadline is not until Jan. 15.

There is preference given to people who currently work or live in Andover.

But all applicants need to earn less than the 80 percent of the area's median income.

For a single person, the maximum yearly income must be less than \$39,550. A family of two must have an income less than \$45,200. A family of three must earn less than \$50,850. A family of four must earn less than \$56,500.

There is no minimum income, but people chosen through the lottery selection will be expected to obtain funds for a down payment and closing costs. The amount of the down payment will depend on the loan.

"They have to qualify throughout the whole process," said Gates, which means until they move in. "Once they're in, they're in."

So when will the lucky homeowners-to-be move in?

"It would depend on the building," said Gates.

Coachman's Ridge will consist of three buildings. The affordable units will be scattered through out them, said Gates.

Currently the site is under construction (photo at left), but as each building is completed, people will be moving in.

According to Gates, the first building will be ready in late spring. The second building should be completed before the end of the summer.

The third building does not have an estimated completion date at this time.

The lottery will take place Feb. 9 at 6 p.m. in Old Town Hall. Applicants do not need to be present.

People can pick up applications at Old Town Hall or the onsite sales office on the Coachman's Ridge property.

Anyone who would like more information about Coachman's Ridge can call 978-989-9812.

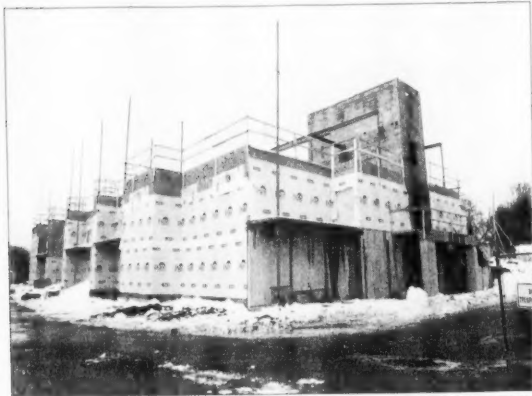
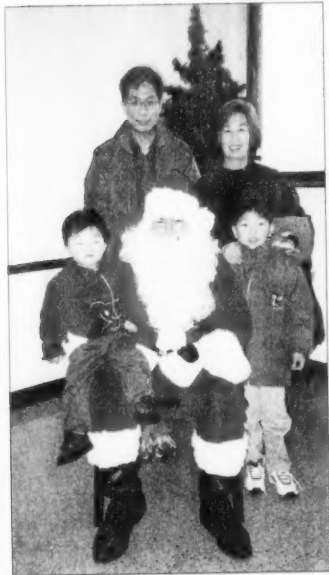


PHOTO BY TIM JEAN

A recent shot of Coachman's Ridge, which is under construction at 170 Haverhill St.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

COURTESY PHOTO



The Andover/North Andover YMCA's Breakfast with Santa held Saturday, Dec. 13, hosted more than 300 children with their parents. Children enjoyed a holiday story with their breakfast, enjoyed a visit with Santa and had their pictures taken with Santa. Pictured with Santa are Joshua and Andrew Li, with their father, Jeff Li, and grandmother Tanjun Gu, all of Andover.

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POLICE LOG

ARRESTS

Wednesday, Dec. 17 — At 9:07 p.m., Halee Foroozandeh, 17, of 12 Crescent Drive, was arrested and charged with assault and battery on a household member.

At 1:57 p.m., David Gonzalez, 21, of 43 Wilson St., Haverhill was arrested on motor vehicle charges.

Thursday, Dec. 18 — At 12:15 p.m., Michael Keohane, 43, of 54 Elm St., North Andover, was arrested and charged with driving drunk, third offense.

At 6:57 p.m., Daniel Grande, 23, of 15 Rollins Ave., Lawrence, was arrested and charged with speeding and driving without a license.

At 11:09 p.m., Michael Staid, 45, of 67 Wood Drive, Essex, was arrested and charged with driving drunk and a marked lanes violation.

Friday, Dec. 19 — At 11:22 a.m., William Wilson Jr., 26, 34 Eagle St., East Boston, was arrested and charged on a warrant with multiple counts of larceny.

At 11:51 a.m., Hope Dickinson, 45, of 23 Boston Road, North Billerica, was arrested and charged on a warrant with intimidating a witness.

At 9:46 p.m., Matthew Gendron, 26, of 33 Perry Ave., was

arrested and charged with assault and battery and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

At 11:25 p.m., Shannon Nelson, 39, of 33 Crestwood Circle, Lawrence, was arrested and charged with driving drunk, second offense, and a marked lanes violation.

Saturday, Dec. 20 — At 1:54 p.m., Steven Webster, 39, of 15 Millville St., Salem, N.H., was arrested and charged with speeding and driving without a license.

ASSAULT

Wednesday, Dec. 17 — At 3:37 p.m., a man reported an assault that had occurred the day before at Raytheon.

THEFTS

Wednesday, Dec. 17 — At 4:59 p.m., an employee of Chaoticom on Riverside Drive reported the theft of a projector from her office.

Friday, Dec. 19 — At 12:12 p.m., an Andover High School student reported her purse stolen at school.

Saturday, Dec. 20 — At 10:28 a.m., Taylor Rental reported a theft.

At 12:11 p.m., a pair of glasses were reported stolen.

Monday, Dec. 22 — At 10:06

a.m., A Greenwood Road resident reported checks stolen and cashed.

At 7:51 p.m., a William Street resident reported a package delivered to his house had been stolen.

INCIDENTS

Wednesday, Dec. 17 — At 2:07 a.m., a Colonial Drive resident reported a loud party at a house. A few females at the party were acting odd. They were "given the word."

At 12:06 p.m., a Lawrence Police dispatcher reported a call from a "nervous-sounding young man" who said the "Greater Lawrence Voke School will no longer be standing on the 18th."

At 2:20 p.m., there was a report of four boys throwing snowballs and ice at cars on Shawsheen Road. The caller said it had been going on for several days and had names to give the police.

At 9:44 p.m., a woman was reported sleeping at the Sovereign Bank ATM foyer on North Main Street. It was reported an ongoing problem. An officer moved her along and arranged to talk to the bank.

Thursday, Dec. 18 — At 5:13 p.m., a motorist reported a tow truck on Salem Street passed a

school bus with its lights on. Police contacted the owner of the tow company to advise him of the complaint.

Friday, Dec. 19 — At 12:30 a.m., a youth approached an officer in the high school parking lot and asked him to bring him home to report a domestic violence issue.

At 2:33 p.m., four officers reported to the Andovers Gift Shop to pick up a shoplifter and call her mother.

At 6:45 p.m., a caller reported seeing a driver with Connecticut plates throw a cat out of the car window on North Main Street.

At 8:52 p.m., five males in black were stopped after jaywalking. They were part of an orthodox group who going to get pizza. The officer warned them about crossing the street at night while wearing black.

AUTO INCIDENTS

Wednesday, Dec. 17 — At 6:08 p.m., a caller reported her side mirror was stolen from her car on School Street more than a week ago.

Friday, Dec. 19 — At 6:17 p.m., a man reported his car had been broken into at the Lowell Street Mobil while it was waiting to be picked up by AAA.

VANDALISM

There was one report of vandalism.

TOYS FOR TOTS



PHOTO BY TIM JEAN

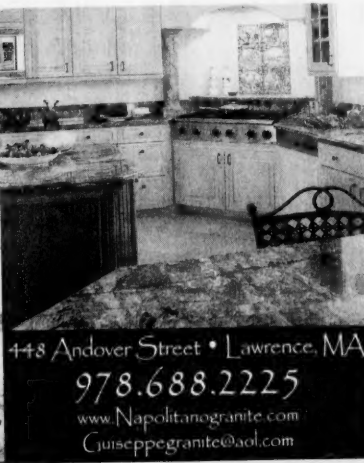
Picking up some toys at Brickstone Square's Toys For Tots drop-off is (from left) Staff Sergeant Chris Gibbet, and Gunnery Sergeant John Thompson, both of Fort Devens. (Story, page 8.)

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Merry Christmas

Christmas spirit: Andover homes illuminate dark winter nights

HOLIDAY LIGHTS

Continued from page 1

this year to help with the lights, which typically go up just after Thanksgiving.

The Fieldings are traditional red-and-white-light fans and Nancy's passion for candy canes comes through loud and clear.

"The best part of holiday lights is originality. I love houses that do their own thing. Everyone has their own taste and style," said Nancy.

White light theme

Around town, it's white lights dominating many homes in town. Bill Ferris of Vale Landscaping, who strings the lights at many homes in town for the holidays, said Andover likes white lights as 90 percent of his customers want them.

"I've seen a trend for more color this year, but typically Andover wants clear lights," Ferris said.

One of those white-light-decorated neighborhoods is the Fieldstone Meadows neighborhood at the corner of Lovejoy and Dascomb roads. Several streets make up the neighborhood and the better asked question is "who's not decorating?" Several of the large homes are decorated with white lights and the area makes for a nice holiday drive.

Residents there say the numerous lights are a reflection of a neighborhood that's got the holiday spirit.

"We just know how happy it makes people when they can look out their windows and see so many pretty lights," said Stacy Gillis, who has been decorating her house on Hazelwood Drive since she moved in 10 years ago.

Her house is the one with a Christmas tree made of lights on the side and includes a stained glass star on the top. She said her husband takes out a window pane and replaces it with a stained glass star-shaped window for the holidays.

Nearby neighbor Mary Beth Finn of 9 Buttonwood Drive called hers a close-knit neighborhood where many folks are friends and coffee hours are common. This time of year, it's the holiday light scene that brings them together.

"It just looks so pretty," said Finn, who's lived there for seven years. "Even new neighbors get

right into it for their first holiday here."

Star of wonder

When cruising for lights in Ballardvale, it's a sky-high style capturing attention. David and Martha Wilson of 9 Bradley Road have decorated a high treetop with a red, white and blue star in their backyard. Rows of white lights cascade to the ground. Many drivers are looking up as the display is very visible from Clark Road and very unique. In addition, their home is outlined with festive colorful lights.

"My relatives call me Sparky Griswold, from that Chevy Chase (*National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*) movie," laughed David Wilson, who has been decorating his home for the past seven years.

It was always a white star in his backyard until Sept. 11, when he changed to red, white and blue and has stuck with it.

"Now those lights are a little tradition in our neighborhood," he said, adding that the unique display delights the numerous kids in the area.

This is just a small sampling of light sources in Andover, which come in all different flavors this holiday season.

Like Nancy Fielding says, everyone has their own taste and style.

Most local light decorators plan to keep their displays up through New Year's Day.

So take a drive by for some local holiday light flavor. And, don't forget to pack a smile.



217 Greenwood Road



2 Hazelwood Drive



4 Buttonwood Drive



9 Bradley Road

Photos by Tim Jean

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Letters to Santa

ANDOVER POST OFFICE

Continued from page 1

the Santa mail? The letters do not just sit in a bin out back. Even if they do not provide proper postage or a zip code on the envelope, every child who takes the time to write Santa receives a personalized response in the spirit of Christmas magic, said workers.

Given Santa's busy schedule, he gets a little ghost-writing help from the postal staff. The result is that hopeful Andover children writing letters addressed to Santa receive a response from him.

Santa's responses don't make any promises about what will be under the tree. But they do let the kids know, "You can be sure the reindeer and I are getting ready for our Christmas Eve ride," and they are signed at the bottom "Your friend, Santa Claus."

"It's nice that we can take the time to do it," said Whynot. "It's fun. Kids are thrilled to get a response."

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Education

ON CAMPUS

Kaylan Tildsley of Jordyn Lane, daughter of Jim and Boston Teachers Union member Kathryn Tildsley, a teacher at the Gardner Elementary School in Allston, received a \$1,000 scholarship from the BTU. Each year, the Boston Teachers Union awards 16 scholarships to children of BTU members.



Kaylan Tildsley

According to a recent press release, approximately 4,000 students in nearly 100 majors received undergraduate degrees from the University of Massachusetts Amherst last spring.

Commencement ceremonies were held May 25, and included September and February graduates.

The following students from Andover were bachelor's degree candidates: **Katherine Blais**, 8 Rasmussen Circle; **Scott Ciruso**, 7 Cherokee Circle; **Albert Croteau**, 196 Shawshen Road; **Leigh Croteau**, 196 Shawshen Road; **Long Dang**, 219 High Plain Road; **Matthew Derba**, 7 Whispering Pines Drive; **Jennifer Downes**, 8 Cardinal Lane; **Britta Eberle**, 1 Landau Lane; **Adam Espinola**, 14 Somerset Drive; **Jesse Greenspan**, 49 Cross St.; **Matthew Herling**, 2 Seneca Circle; **Michael Johnson**, 5 Matthew St.; **Stephanie Manners**, 11 Samos Lane; **Nicole Menschel**, 7 Starr Avenue West; **James Morgan**, 9 Longwood Drive; **Bradford Morrissey**, 41 Greenwood Road; **Juliet Muzere**, 10 Crescent Drive; **Arlene Nardone**, 3 Greybitch Road; **Gary Nicholson**, 2 Waverly Drive; **Sarah Reilly**, 44 River Road; **Lesley Ring**, 8 Acropolis Circle; **Matthew Rogers**, 91 Central St.; **Allison St. Jean**, 77 Haverhill St.; **Lindsey Strube**, 18 Wabanaki Way; **Lauren Sullo**, 76 Princeton Ave.; **Yan Kin Tsang**, 61 Brookfield Road; **Meghan Twohig**, 9 Samos Lane; **Kenneth Wong**, 32 Shawshen Road, and **Mark Zammuto**, 7 Donna Road.

Kimberly Ann Boettcher, of 7 Harper Circle, completed her fifth year at Quinnipiac University on May 11 with a master of arts in teaching. She is now certified to teach grades K through 6.

She graduated with distinction, maintaining a grade-point average of 4.0.

Boettcher graduated cum laude from Quinnipiac University in May 2002, with a bachelor of arts in English.

SUBMIT YOUR STUDENT'S COLLEGE NEWS TO THE ON CAMPUS COLUMN



PHOTO BY TIM JEAN

Representing the West Elementary School toy drive for Lawrence Community Day Care Center last Friday, Dec. 19 are, from left: (front row) Douglas Simons and Sara Heath, both 10; (second row) Danny Caveney, 9; Emma Kantola, 8; and Allison Conway, 9; (third row) Danny Conway, 11; Sarah Freedman, 9; and Alexis Belliard-Harmon, 9.

Caring for others

West Elementary students show holiday spirit

By Ben Hellman

West Elementary School students got in the holiday spirit by packing gift bags for children in Lawrence. The bags were for infants and toddlers of teenage mothers at the Lawrence Community Day Care Center.

"People were incredibly generous," said West Elementary assistant principal Liz Roos.

West Elementary families provided 59 children with garbage-bag-size pouches filled with diapers, baby wipes, baby food and toys.

The load filled four cars and took the entire student council to carry everything to the cars.

The West Elementary students enjoyed the project.

"It's fun collecting toys for little kids," said fifth-grader Nate Bryant, the student council president.

The Lawrence Community Day Care Center cares for children of teenage mothers while the mothers finish high school and receive job training in the summer, said Roos.

She became involved in the project when

Andover volunteer Patty Meade, who is active at the center, had kids attending West Elementary.

The students enjoyed playing with some of the toys as they packed the cars. Roos said the Andover students also were intrigued by the names of the children, many of which have non-traditional spellings or are unusual choices.

Some of the names were Genesis, Crysdalys, Adalberto and Prince Julian.

"You have teenagers naming them," said Roos.

The Andover students were struck by the fact that they themselves are not much younger than some of the mothers who will receive the packages.

"Some of them are as old as my sister," said fourth-grader Sarah Freedman. "That'd be weird - having a teenager as a mother."

When the center's mothers and children open the packages, the Community Day Care Center will take their pictures and send the photographs back to West Elementary.

That way West Elementary students can see the people they helped.

SCHOOL LUNCH MENUS

After Holiday Recess, the Andover public schools reopen Monday, Jan. 5. Here's what's for lunch in the public schools Jan. 5-9:

Elementary schools

Monday: Nachos with taco meat, cheese and salsa, chicken nuggets with puffs and green beans, slice of pizza, fruit, veggie and milk.

Tuesday: Spaghetti and meatballs with roll, chocolate chip pancakes with a slice of ham, pizza stick with soft pretzel, fruit, veggie and milk.

Wednesday: Two tacos with cheese and salsa, waffles with ham, pizza ring, fruit, veggie, fruit whip and milk.

Thursday: Chicken nuggets with puffs and cranberry sauce, french toast and sausage, mozzarella sticks with french fries, fruit, veggie and milk.

Friday: Chicken quesadilla with corn, hot dog on a roll with fries, slice of pizza, fruit, veggie and milk.

Doherty Middle School

Monday: French toast and sausage, nachos with taco meat and spicy cheese, stuffed crust pizza, fruit, veggie and milk.

Tuesday: Spaghetti and meatballs, two hot

dogs with chips, baked chicken nuggets, fruit, veggie and milk.

Wednesday: Two tacos with salsa, chicken McSchool, stuffed crust pizza, fruit, veggie and milk.

Thursday: Cheeseburger with chips, fried chicken with mashed potato, meatball sub, fruit, veggie and milk.

Friday: Tuna sub with chips, mozzarella sticks with sauce, baked chicken nuggets, fruit, veggie and milk.

Secondary schools

Monday: Two toasted cheese sandwiches with chips, macaroni and meatballs, stuffed crust pizza, fruit, veggie and milk.

Tuesday: Baked stuffed shells, french toast with sausage, chicken McSchool, fruit, veggie and milk.

Wednesday: Cheeseburger with chips, meatball sub, bagel pizza, fruit, veggie and milk.

Thursday: Pot roast dinner, two hot dogs with chips, chicken parm sub, fruit, veggie and milk.

Friday: Fish-and-chips, spaghetti and meat sauce, stuffed crust pizza, fruit, veggie and milk.

For prices or other information about lunches, call Karen Pappa, food services director, at 978-623-8622.

Going around on the block

■ BLOCK SCHEDULING AT ANDOVER HIGH SCHOOL

Continued from page 1

ber.

The Massachusetts Department of Education has directed Andover to increase class time at Andover High School. Andover must offer high schoolers 990 hours of class time by September 2004 - 868 were offered in September 2003 - and must offer an interim plan to increase hours by January.

Superintendent Claudia Bach submitted the plans last week to the DOE, saying she would hire 16 teachers - at a cost of \$673,380 before health benefits are factored in - to meet the DOE mandate.

Selectmen, Finance Committee and School Committee members have voiced concerns over how to pay for the increase in spending. Leaders and residents have questioned whether block scheduling makes AHS more expensive to staff.

School leaders

School leaders have said the goal in hiring the new teachers is to fulfill two goals: meeting the DOE mandate and meeting parent desire for more classes at AHS.

"The DOE's request for hours is compatible with parent and student requests for courses," said Bach.

Anderson says block scheduling does not stand in the way of the school meeting the 990 hours. "We already have enough time (in the school day.) Regardless of the schedule, we need to staff it," said Anderson.

Anderson says the advantages of the block schedule are: more analytical discussions, longer time for lab activities, more opportunities for kids to work together in class, and that teachers to get to know a smaller group of kids better.

"They are taking additional core courses that they couldn't take if (the schedule) wasn't block," said Anderson.

Skepticism

Lyman and others have voiced concern about the AHS schedule. Lyman said at a tri-board meeting two weeks ago she had received numerous phone calls from residents concerned about the schedule.

"I've since then gotten more phone calls and e-mails," said Lyman on Monday.

Having watched last Tuesday's School Committee meeting on television, Lyman said she and others concur with member Christopher Smith's request to know what courses the new teachers will teach. "We're not looking for more PE classes for our kids," she said. "There's a difference between meeting the (DOE deadline) and how effective we are at meeting the solution the parents were after."

A student's perspective

Craig-Comin says she understands town and school leaders' concerns about money, but she still thinks block scheduling is worth preserving. "We should fix (the financial problems) without hurting the education system," she said.

Craig-Comin says the general strengths of block scheduling are:

- Fewer academic courses allow students to focus.
- Longer classes allow for more in-depth study.
- Giving teachers more time during the day allows them to volunteer their time after school to lead clubs.
- Longer periods allow for more interdisciplinary courses.

A drawback of block scheduling is ending a course mid-year and the possibility of not studying it again for an entire year, said Craig-Comin. This affects students taking the SATs or other standardized tests, she said.

Craig-Comin says block scheduling is most important to her because it allows the teaching of interdisciplinary courses. Odyssey, World Studies and 20th Century studies were some of her favorite classes because they presented literature in a cultural and historic perspective. A planned course Craig-Comin wished had been offered this year would have combined calculus and 17th-century literature.

"You learn about the literature of the time period in context and you learn the history at the same time. It makes it more real," she said. "It makes it more understandable to me if I learn it in a context and it puts me in the spot."

It is just this sort of class Craig-Comin says would be sacrificed if class periods were closer to 45 minutes instead of the present 82. "There's definitely no way that could exist in a (seven-period day)," she said.

Craig-Comin says AHS students saw a big change in the school from last spring to September 2003. "Everyone notices the difference," she said. Marketing, business, computer, accounting, and AP art courses were lost in teacher cuts, she said.

Craig-Comin says the supplies, equipment and extra courses that were cut are associated with a top-notch education.

"You don't need it for a basic education, but you need it for one of the best educations in the state or country," said Craig-Comin.

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LOCAL SCHOLARS

St. John's Preparatory School recently announced the names of students who earned academic honors for the first quarter of the 2003-04 school year. Students qualified for the headmaster's list by earning grades of 90 percent or higher in all courses; and qualified for the honor roll by earning grades of 85 percent or higher in all courses.

The following Andover students were named to the headmaster's list for the first quarter: **Andrew Callery '07, Stephen Chan '07, John McCarthy '04, Daniel Ravens '05, and Richard Sawyer '06.**

The following Andover students were named to the honor roll: **Robert H. Bradley '06, Evan Cooke '06, Alexander Dinu '07, Matthew Doherty '04, Christopher Gibson '06, Brian McPartland '04, Samuel Rauseo '07, Mark Rauseo '06, Corey Richard '07, Sean Riley '06, Timothy Smith '06, Carter White '04, and Geoffrey Wuehrmann '05.**

Academy of Notre Dame reported that **Megan Griffin** of Andover was named to its high school honor roll. Griffin received second honors.

Local piano students from the Stu-

dio of Linda Shen in Andover have registered as candidates for membership in the National Fraternity of Student Musicians, sponsored by the National Guild of Piano Teachers, part of the teacher division of the American College of Musicians.

Earlier this year, this group of piano students played their pieces from memory in the National Piano Playing Auditions at UMass Lowell.

Students who received awards and certificates are:

District Honor (performed 3-5 compositions) - **Nick Binder, Leon He, Maddie Gray, Reeling Kirk, Audrey Wilson and Marie Wilson.**

State Honor (performed 6-9 compositions) - **Ryan Chan, Christopher Penta, Jade Chevalier, Josh Chevalier, Carl Jackson, Olivia Li, Joe Terranova and Zoe Xu.**

National Honor (performed 10-15 compositions) - **Sophie Brower,**



Some of the local piano students of Linda Shen who are candidates for membership in the National Fraternity of Student Musicians include, from left (left photo, front row): **Rebecca Cheng, Carter Letstky, Hunter Tyrell;** (middle row) **Maddie Gray, Marie Wilson, Vicky Chu;** (back row) **Sophie Brower, Joe Terranova, Audrey Wilson;** (right photo, from left) **Margreat Wang, Mathew Moura and Koran Betty.**

Rebecca Cheng, Vicky Chu, Cassie Huang, Carter Letstky, Hunter Tyrell, Max Li and Victor Xu.

Founder's Medal Award (performed 4 different periods of music compositions assigned by Guild Center) - **Koran Betty, Carolyn Cody, Fred Huang, Mathew Moura and Margreat Wang.**

Eight Phillips Academy seniors have been selected by the 2003-04 National Hispanic Recognition Program, which honors the exceptional academic achievements of Hispanic high school seniors and identifies them for post secondary institutions.

From more than 124,000 Hispanic students nationwide who took the PSAT qualifying exam, these seniors are among 3,300 students named as Scholars or Honorable Mention Finalists.

The following students are designated as Scholars: **Matthew J. Garza, Edgar L. Perez and Anthony L. Roldan.**

The following students are Honorable Mention Finalists: **Jessica Alcantara, Stephen R. Draheim, April N. Franz, Johanna Marmolejos and Daniel V. Serna.**

Austin Preparatory School announced that the following students from Andover have made the honor roll for the first quarter of the 2003-04 academic year.

Distinction - **Brian Coffey, Grade**

11; William Green, Grade 6; Sarah Weidlein, Grade 11; Emily Zinsmeister, Grade 7; Rebecca Zinsmeister, Grade 8.

High honors - **Christopher Burke, Grade 9; Caitrin Coffey, Grade 10; Kierstyn Kalman, Grade 12; Bridget Sheehy, Grade 8; Alexandra Yuschik, Grade 9.**

Honors - **Brendan Burke, Grade 6; Patrick Burke, Grade 10; Alexandra Fitzgerald, Grade 9; Vanessa Kohler, Grade 10; Conor Mogan, Grade 11; Melissa Pettini, Grade 8; Steven Vieira, Grade 9.**

St. John's Preparatory School inducted 107 seniors into the Brother Benjamin Chapter of the National Honor Society at an induction ceremony on Oct. 22 at the Danversport Yacht Club.

The National Honor Society recognizes high school students for scholarship, leadership, character and service to school and community.

The 2003-04 officers of the Brother Benjamin Chapter of the National Honor Society include **John McCarthy** of Andover, president.

National Honor Society inductees from Andover include **Michael P. Gibson, Jonathan J. Kidd, John F. McCarthy, Brian P. McPartland and Michael D. Viscosi.**

To qualify for the chapter, students must demonstrate academic achievement, leadership, character and a commitment to community service.

Specifically, students must earn a minimum 3.2 cumulative grade-point average, contribute at least 30 hours of community service in the prior year and demonstrate leadership and involvement in the life of the school. As a part of the qualifying process, students submit an essay on the meaning of character, as well as a detailed summary of their activities and achievements. Membership is reviewed during the

school year, and students are expected to maintain their grades and contribute an additional 30 hours of community service before March 1.

Brooks School announced recently that three Andover residents were named AP Scholars by the College Board in recognition of their achievement on the college-level Advanced Placement Program Exams.

Ben Bibler '03 and Kaylan Tildsley '03 of Andover were named AP Scholars with Distinction for receiving an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, with grades of 3 or higher on four or more exams.

Wess Cohen '03 of Andover was named an AP Scholar for completing three or more AP Examinations, with grades of 3 or higher.

Only about 15 percent of the more than one million high school students in more than 14,000 secondary schools worldwide who took AP Exams performed at a sufficiently high level to merit the recognition of AP Scholar.

Students take AP Exams in May after completing challenging college-level courses at their high school. Most of the nation's colleges and universities award credit, advanced placement or both based on successful performance on the AP Exams.

More than 1,400 institutions award a full year's credit (sophomore standing) to students presenting a sufficient number of qualifying grades.

AFS hosts annual international banquet



Foreign-exchange students **Julia Schoenau** (left) of Germany and **Viola Pinaud** of France attend Andover High.

The American Field Service (AFS) Club of Andover recently held its annual international banquet.

After a welcome by president Vahe Apelian to both high-school and adult-chapter members, the large group of friends and guests enjoyed a buffet of international foods.

Chairwoman of the event was Marsha Anderson.

Following the dinner, Julia Schoenau and Viola Pinaud, this year's foreign-exchange students attending Andover High for the academic year, gave informative presentations.

Schoenau, from Essen, Germany, joins the Steven and Francis Booth family of 27 Kathleen Drive, while the Fred and Susan Putnam family of 27 Summer St. hosts Pinaud, of Saint-Viance, France.

Both students welcome speaking engagements. For more information on AFS and its programs, contact Vahe Apelian of 17 Linda Drive for more information.

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Arts & Entertainment

EVENTS CALENDAR

Thursday, December 25 Christmas Day

No scheduled events.

Friday, December 26

Live comedy, Tim McIntire, Greg Boggis, Tim Kaelin, \$12, 9:30 p.m., Comedy Escape at the China Blossom, North Andover; 781-938-8088.

Saturday, December 27

Live comedy, Tim McIntire, Greg Boggis, Tim Kaelin, \$12, 9:30 p.m., Comedy Escape at the China Blossom, North Andover; 781-938-8088.

Live music, Michael Troy and Kerri Powers, 7 p.m., \$10-\$12, Tim Gearan Band, 10 p.m., \$5, Capo's, 98 Middle St., Lowell; 978-453-5755.

Sunday, December 28

No scheduled events.

Monday, December 29

No scheduled events.

Tuesday, December 30

No scheduled events.

Wednesday, December 31 New Year's Eve

New Year's Eve party, for 6th- to 8th-graders, dancing, swimming, movies and more, \$10 in advance, \$15 at door, 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m., pre-register at the Andover/North Andover YMCA; Barbara 978-685-3541 Ext. 29.

Live music, Vance Gilbert, 7 and 10 p.m., \$22-\$25, Capo's, 98 Middle St., Lowell; 978-453-5755.

Live music, Lowell Opera Company's First Night Gala Celebration, 8 p.m., \$25-\$50, includes performance of Johann Strauss' *Die Fledermaus*, featuring Andover soprano Christina Puntoni as Rosalinda, along with Andover singers Jennifer D'Onofrio, Ann Cobleigh, Leslie Willey, Andrew Sanders, Trevor Sanders and Sam Dempsey; dancing to swing sounds will follow along with Viennese pastries and a non-alcoholic toast at midnight; Smith Baker Center, 400 Merrimack St., Lowell, 978-470-8747 or www.operalowell.org.

Thursday, January 1

No scheduled events.

Friday, January 2

Live comedy, John David, Chris Oake, Joe List, \$12, 9:30 p.m., Comedy Escape at the China Blossom, North Andover; 781-938-8088.

Live music, Averi, 8 p.m., \$8-\$10, Capo's, 98 Middle St., Lowell; 978-453-5755.

Saturday, January 3

Live comedy, John David, Chris Oake, Joe List, \$12, 9:30 p.m., Comedy Escape at the China Blossom, North Andover; 781-938-8088.

Live music, Ronnie Earl, 8 p.m., \$8-\$10, Capo's, 98 Middle St., Lowell; 978-453-5755.

Sunday, January 4

Live music, Winter Jazz Series, featuring Gray Sargent, 5-9 p.m., reservations recommended, Ipswich Bar and Grill, Ipswich; 978-356-7006.

Ongoing Holiday displays

Brickstone Square Christmas

Tree, a decorated 96-foot Norway Spruce, reportedly "the tallest tree in the Northeast and perhaps all of America"; featuring carousel and Santa's Village, Toys for Tots drop-off site, photos with Santa to benefit the Merrimack Valley YMCA, open through the holidays, weather permitting, Fridays and Saturdays, 6-9 p.m., York and Haverhill streets, Brickstone Square; 978-475-4000.

Art Exhibitions

Addison Gallery of American Art, Stephen Greene: *Painter and Mentor*, through Jan. 4; Richard Serra *Prints: A Survey*, through March 29; gallery hours Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday 1-5 p.m., Addison Gallery of American Art, Phillips Academy; 978-749-4015 www.addisongallery.org.

Alpers Fine Art of Andover, gallery hours: Wednesday and Thursdays 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 2 Main St.; 978-470-0013.

Andover Historical Society, artist Doug Johnson; exhibit *Lucy's Acre: A Place in Time*, tour the Amos Blanchard House and Barn Museum for a glimpse into life in the early 19th century, Tuesday through Friday 1-4 p.m., \$5 admission, students \$3, 97 Main St.; 978-475-2236, www.andhist.org.

Robert S. Peabody Museum of Archaeology, *Objects and their Meanings: Historical Highlights of the Peabody*, displays ethnographic objects from the museum's collections of North and South America and a series of photographs that illustrate the activities of the museum's key people during the last century; Tuesday through Saturday, noon-5 p.m., by appointment only, free admission, Phillips Academy campus, 175 Main St.; 978-749-4490.

Essex Art Center, through December Main Gallery, Student Work, Elizabeth Beland Gallery, Kelly Kaczynski Installation, Tuesday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Friday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m., 56 Island St., Lawrence; 978-685-2343.

Arthur Griffin Center for Photographic Art, Main Gallery, Emerging Artists Gallery, *Hard Boys & Bad Girls*, through Jan. 15, Tuesday-Sunday, noon to 4 p.m., \$5 admission, Thursday admission is free all day, 67 Shore Road, Winchester; 781-729-1158, www.griffinmuseum.org.

Brush Art Gallery, through Jan. 4, *Photo2003 Black and White Classic Juried Photography Show*, hours Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday, noon-4 p.m., 256 Market St., Lowell; 978-459-7819.

McCoy Gallery, Merrimack College; 978-837-5000, Ext. 4205.

Continued on page 9

New Year's Eve show

Local performers will ring in new year in Lowell Opera Company's operetta

By Ben Hellman

WITH CHAMPAGNE, MUSIC, dancing and party pranks - New Year's Eve will be well spent by Andover cast members of Lowell Opera Company's *Die Fledermaus*. The Strauss operetta is funny, full of familiar melodies and a great way to spend the early evening on Wednesday, Dec. 31, say the singers. Post-show swing dancing and a non-alcoholic toast at midnight could make for a full evening.

The Johann Strauss operetta has songs and dialogue in English. The title translates to "The Bat" and refers to the practical joke in which two friends go to a costume party and one - dressed as a bat - has too much to drink and is left sleeping outside, still in full costume.

"It's a romp - it's campy," said Andover voice teacher and cast member Jennifer D'Onofrio. "Many of the songs will be familiar," she said.

Andover resident Christina Puntoni plays the female lead and is an artistic director of the Lowell Opera Company, which once boasted Metropolitan Opera Company voices, but fell in stature. Puntoni is one of the artists trying to bring the company back to the grandeur of its heyday.

Puntoni was encouraged towards opera



◀ From left are Lowell Opera Company cast members (front row) Andrew Sanders and Jennifer D'Onofrio; (back row) Lauren Sprague, Ann Cobleigh and Sam Dempsey. Sprague lives in Lowell, and the others are Andover residents.

Puntoni says life experience brings color and maturity to a voice, "You get to the middle part of your life - you've experienced life. It brings vocal color," she said.

It is a story some of the younger Andover members of the cast may tell one day. Sam Dempsey, 12, of West Middle School, plays a servant to a prince in the story and follows him around to comic effect. "I'm basically his shadow," said Dempsey. Dempsey was encouraged to do the show by Puntoni.

Another younger singer is 16-year-old AHS student Andrew Sanders, encouraged to try out by D'Onofrio, who gives him voice lessons.

The experience has appealed to him.

"Opera might be a possible career choice," he said.

by her eighth-grade chorus teacher. She later took a break from singing, but when she started again she aimed towards opera.

Hot new holiday toys in town

How much is that stuffed Santa Claus in the window?

By Andrea Gregory

A GIANT, STUFFED Santa sits in a window framed in Christmas lights. Another window displays a snowman and reindeer. In between the two windows is the entrance to Andover's only toy store - Learning Express at 32 Park St.

Stacking the shelves and keeping the store orderly has been a constant battle in the midst of accommodating holiday shoppers, said Cindy Fortier, working at Learning Express on Monday night. Yet compared to the hectic mall scene, Andover's little toy store appears to have everything under control.

As for what's big this year, Fortier said she has an idea of what Andover children will be opening up under decorated trees on Christmas morning.

But there doesn't appear to be one must-have toy of the season, she said.

"The classics like the Lincoln Logs, Tinker Toys, we still sell," she said.

She said many adults can remember playing with such timeless toys, and that is part of the reason they choose them as gifts.

Groovy Girls are a big hit with the girls. Fortier said the

cloth dolls with bright colored clothes made by Manhattan Toy have become very popular since the line was expanded.

Their dress-up outfits include everything from snowboarding gear to rock star attire. Plush convertible cars or vanity tables for the dolls can be purchased separately.

According to Fortier, the whole line has been doing well. "The boys still like the Legos," she said.

Papo has put out a line of detailed figurines that have also been popular at the store, she said.

There are all kinds of warriors, some riding on horses, others with shields and swords in hand, ready to protect their plastic king and queen as they battle 3-inch-tall, fire-breathing dragons.

"The castle theme has been really big this year," said Fortier.

Papo also makes tiny westerners - cowboys holding lassos - and Indians. There is a pirate theme and a three musketeers theme, too.

According to Fortier, giant flying discs sold out early in the Christmas season. A second order came in just in time to have the store fully stocked the week leading up to Christmas.

The giant, nylon discs - also known as flying hoops - are made by Beamo.

She said "Frisbees in the winter are a little surprising," but she imagines some kids

might take these out in the snow for a winter game of catch.

She said the store always offers gift wrapping, and stays open until 9 p.m. through December.

Local donations make 2003 Toys for Tots drive a success

By Ben Hellman

Needy children in the area may find an unexpected toy under the Christmas tree this year, thanks to Andover businesses and residents. More than 5,000 toys were collected in Andover for the Toys for Tots program.

Toys for Tots is sponsored by the US Marine Corps Reserves. Their mission is to collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December each year and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to needy children in the community in which the campaign is conducted.

Andover had four participating drop-off centers this year: at the Andover IRS Center; Hawthorne Suites, 4 Riverside Drive; Brickstone Properties, 200 Brickstone Square; and the Post Office.

The IRS donated 4,281 toys, along with a check for \$9,500, said Brenda Wilson at the Andover IRS Center's communications department. Wilson says employees at the center hold raffles and yard sales to come up with money to buy toys. The \$9,500 check was given to the Marines to buy more toys. "It's the one big thing the employees really get behind," said Wilson.

Brickstone Square collected an estimated 500 toys.

The Andover Post Office measured its intake with postal bins, or tall cardboard boxes. The Post Office estimated 250 bins, each holding numerous toys.

It was Hawthorne Suites' first year participating in the program, said sales manager Cindy Babcock. They collected 20 gifts.

"We're quite pleased with how we did," said Babcock.

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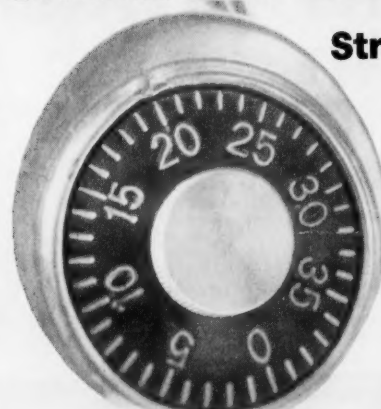
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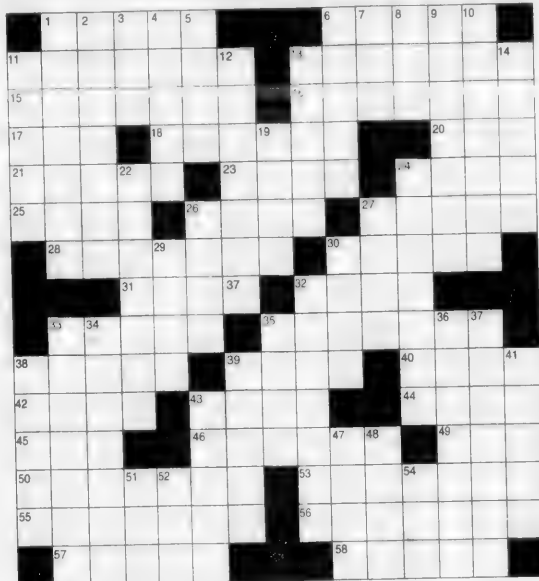
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

1. Reynolds
6. Seduces
11. Befouls
13. Provider
15. Strikingly unconventional
16. Type of pudding
17. Leaf used for writing paper
18. In a way, takes off
20. Cavity in rock
21. Hurried
23. Source of the Blue Nile
24. The central part of the earth
25. A rank in a series
26. Impossible to doubt
27. Lordship's jurisdictions
28. Instructed spiritual improvement
30. Infections
31. Mariners
32. Prohibits
33. Chinese dialects
35. Discomfort
38. Jams
39. Hair on the head
40. Blackjack
42. Swiss river
43. Capital of Yemen
44. The lowest female singing voice
45. Baseball stat
46. Spell
49. Swiss river
50. Indents
53. Canadian province



CLUES DOWN

1. A way to diminish
2. Erased
3. Top part; covering the chest
4. Lose blood
5. Body of students who graduate

- together
6. Seaport in Finland
 7. A nucleotide derived from adenosine, abbr.
 8. Japanese ornamental tree
 9. Harass
 10. Makes fast
 11. Entrances
 12. Sculptures
 13. Comb-plate or locomotor organ
 14. Throws a fit
 19. Calcedony
 22. A standard example
 24. Island in the Mediterranean
 26. Gentlemen
 27. A crane
 29. Fits tightly
 30. Particular instance of selling
 32. Monocotyledons
 33. A spirited, graceful horse
 34. Percussion instrument
 35. Supernatural force
 36. Sunrooms
 37. Haciendas, for example
 38. Bills of fare
 39. Wet spongy ground
 41. Jewish dances
 43. Remains as is
 47. Burrowing marine mollusk
 48. City 3000 B.C.
 51. Telephone switch
 52. Tai
 54. Type of tree

SOLUTION ON PAGE 20

EVENTS CALENDAR

ONGOING

Continued from page 8

Whistler House Museum of Art, Wednesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., \$4, 243 Worthen St., Lowell; 978-452-7641.

Sakowich Campus Center, at Merrimack College, the Fireside and First floor lounges, call for hours; 978-837-5000, Ext. 4205.

McQuade Gallery, gallery hours Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m.-11 p.m., Friday, 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Sunday, 11 a.m.-11 p.m.; closed weekends in January; 978-837-5000, Ext. 4205.

Revolving Museum, through April 2, LocalMotive: Gallery Exhibit, indoor gallery space will be transformed into an interactive exhibit celebrating the wonders of the natural world. Audiences will be taken on a journey through a variety of innovative artworks that explore issues like pollution control and spirituality through nature, artist-driven museum, dedicated to presenting public art, exhibitions, educational programs, gallery hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday noon-4 p.m., 22 Shattuck St., Lowell; 978-937-2787.

J. David Broudo Gallery of Art, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Endicott College, 376 Hale St. (Route 127) Beverly; 978-232-2250.

Montserrat College of Art Gallery, Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.;

Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, noon-4 p.m., 23 Essex St., Beverly; 978-921-4242.

Senior Center artists, talented artists participate in art classes and enjoy the "drop-in group" on Wednesday and Thursday mornings, art display of oils, watercolors, pencil, pen and ink, pastels and oriental brush art is in the Music Room; Andover Senior Center, Whittier Court; 978-623-8321.

Memorial Hall Library, Artist of the Month series features Ruth Brunquell, watercolors, Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Sunday, noon-5 p.m.; 978-623-8400, www.mhl.org.

Flint Memorial Library, 147 Park St., North Reading; 978-664-4942, www.flintmemoriallibrary.org.

Churchill Gallery, Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Sunday, 12:30-5:30 p.m., 6 Inn St., Newburyport, 978-462-9891.

The State of the Art Gallery and Sculpture Garden, Rocky Neck Art Colony, Gloucester; 978-463-8883.

Cape Ann Historical Museum, Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., 27 Pleasant St., Gloucester; 978-283-0455.

The Saltbox Gallery, cooperative of 21 artists from the North Shore, Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; 49 Main St., Topsfield; 978-887-3844.

Laura Coombs Hills Gallery, Monday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday, noon-5 p.m., 60 Water St., Newburyport; 978-465-8769, www.newburyportart.org.

Mingo Gallery, Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 252 Cabot St., Beverly 978-927-5964.

Nevins Memorial Hall, 305 Broadway, Methuen; 978-686-4080.

Arlington Center for the Arts, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., 41 Foster St., Arlington.

Robert Lincoln Levy Gallery, Art for Holiday Giving, through Jan. 4, Wednesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday, noon-4 p.m., 136 State St., Portsmouth, N.H., 603-431-4230.

Gelb Gallery at Phillips Academy, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, Sunday, noon-4 p.m.; 978-475-4419.

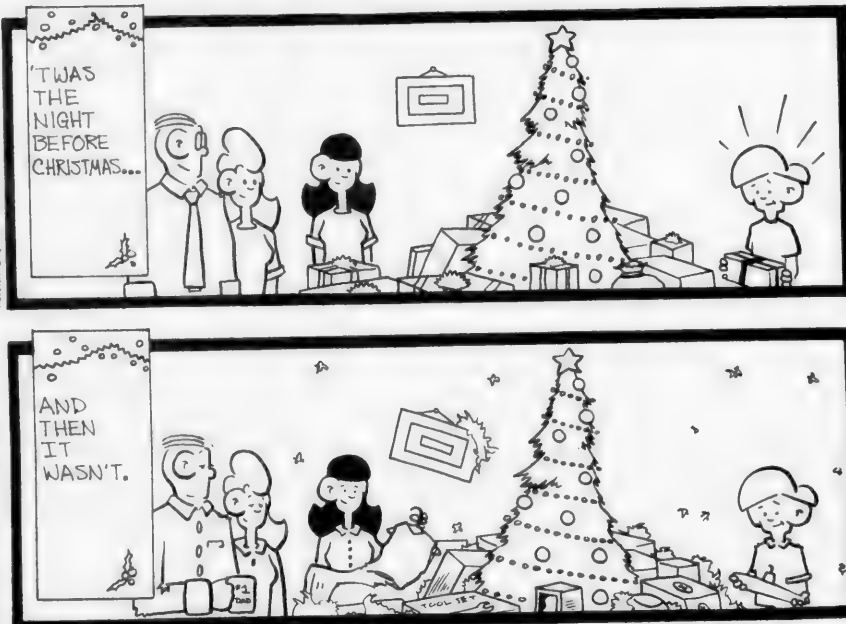
Bravos Arts Gallery, Thursday-Friday, Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., One East Main St., Georgetown; 978-352-8102.

Ayer Lofts Art Gallery, a cooperative artist space in Lowell, Thursdays, 6-8 p.m., Saturday, Sunday, 1-4 p.m., 172 Middle St., Lowell; 978-970-3556 info@ayerlofts.com.

River Gallery, Thursday through Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., 4 Market St., Ipswich; 978-356-1559.

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Opinion

A stocking full of spam

IN DICKENS' CLASSIC *A Christmas Carol* 160 years ago, Ebenezer Scrooge – before he saw the light – said: "...every idiot who goes about with 'Merry Christmas' on his lips, should be boiled with his own pudding, and buried with a stake of holly through his heart." We could envision a similar punishment for spammers, the sleazy commercial e-mailers who send out millions of fraudulent messages each day to flood the in-boxes of consumers and businesses, including the *Townsmen*.

But just in time for Christmas, President George W. Bush signed into law last week the so-called "Can Spam Act," legislation that will finally establish federal regulations on how commercial e-mail is distributed. The US House of Representatives recognized how abusive and prolific the problem had become, and voted 392-5 in favor of the first anti-spam bill, which bans unsolicited, junk e-mail. Penalties for these bandwidth-hog violators include jail time and fines that could total millions of dollars.

These unwanted, unsolicited e-mails aren't merely annoying and irritating to those who use the Internet. Sandwiched in between legitimate e-mails, they are intrusive interruptions pitching everything from prescription drugs, pornography, low-cost mortgages, inkjet cartridges, cable-TV decoder boxes, herbal placebos, physical enhancers, and get-rich-quick schemes involving South African diamond mines or large inheritances to be transferred out of Nigeria or Democratic Republic of the Congo – to be "shared" with anyone naive enough to furnish their bank-account numbers.

The law intends to force commercial e-mailers to identify themselves clearly, use accurate sender addresses, abide by consumer requests to opt-out ("leave me alone"), and not use phony subject lines or blur their file-transmission paths.

Those who don't comply with the new law should be forced to write letters of apology to each person they've spammed, lick each stamp and each envelope – or hand-deliver each one. It's a punishment we think even the transformed Scrooge would approve of. Instead of being so miserly, selfish and greedy, spammers would be reminded of the importance of noticing the lives of others all around them.

Web question

It's just not Christmas without... (fill in the blank)

Last week's *Townsmen* Web-site question was:

For nearly a decade, a game of cards at the senior center has brought in hundreds of dollars for the town and awarded weekly winners cash prizes of up to \$4. Senior center staff members are stepping in and putting an end to the usual habits of the bridge club and trying to follow state law that prohibits gambling. Is it appropriate for the staff to step in and change the way the game has been played by Andover seniors?

49 people voted.

► 39, or 80 percent, said, "No. The senior center staff should leave the bridge club alone. The small amounts of money being exchanged are not hurting anyone, and are actually bringing money to the center."

► 7, or 14 percent, said, "Yes. The town has been allowing an illegal activity to go on at the senior center. Gambling is illegal and there

should be no exceptions in municipal buildings."

► 1, or 2 percent, said, "Yes. I think the staff should have stopped it sooner, but better late than never. I see no reason why the seniors need the incentive of a \$4 prize to try and win the game."

► 1, or 2 percent, said, "Yes, for other reasons."

► 1, or 2 percent, said, "No, for other reasons."

This week's Web question: **What really makes Christmas feel like Christmas?**

- Snow. I'm dreaming of a white Christmas.
- Presents.
- Spending time with family and/or friends.
- The food.
- The music.
- The lights.
- The cards.
- Church services.
- Other.

To cast a vote, surf to www.andovertownsmen.com.

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS



The Hanukkah Menorah, called a Chanukiah, is a special candleholder used only at this time of year. It has spaces for eight candles, which stand for the eight nights that the oil miraculously burned on the first Hanukkah. A ninth candle, called a Shamash, or helper candle, is used to light the other candles. Here, fifth-grade students with their teacher, Nanci Miragliotta (at left), display the creations they entered in the Creative Menorah contest at Temple Emanuel.

LETTERS

Snow decisions

Editor, *Townsmen*:

"Bach" and "balk" sound remarkably similar, and, apparently, it's no coincidence. Balk (verb): to stop and stubbornly refuse to move or act. Bach (noun): superintendent of Andover Schools. On Monday, Dec. 15, Bach cancelled school after some staff and students had already arrived at the buildings, particularly elementary-aged children involved in the Kid's Club program. Obviously, their safety and security was rendered negligible by Bach's after-the-coffee-break decision. As a parent of one of those children left abandoned by our superintendent's flagrant and whimsical indecision, I implore the town's real decision-makers to consider the following alternate plan.

The next time school is canceled well beyond the 11th hour, please consider that the staff and students who have already arrived at school facilities are safe and secure where they are. Please consider that some staff will be driving from distant, often treacherous areas to be at the school to do their jobs. You should not arbitrarily decide, re-decide, then decide again to have, delay, then cancel school once the school day has officially started. If transportation is the issue, such as bus service being suspended due to an accident or other unforeseen emergency, consider this suggestion: Run the school day anyway with the staff and students that are there. Allow parents the option, the personal and logical parental decision, whether or not to transport their children to the schools that are already open and functioning. That way, no youngster is abandoned at school, no staff is put at risk, and programs such as Kid's Club will not have to clean up the disaster that in now known as "The Bach Balk."

By the way, the entire Kid's Club/Shawshen Extended Day staff was fantastic, covering the situation quickly, efficiently and professionally. The town, particularly the school department and the superintendent's office, should thank the Kid's Club/SHED staff for saving the town more phone calls than they probably would have received had their phone lines not been mysteriously busy all morning long.

Audrey Nicholson
18 Ridge St.

About 'Thursday File'

Steve MacDowall started the file on the Internet. The Web site for his creation is www.hudsonvanloo.ca and it suggests books to read and offers quotations such as the ones on this page.

What could be more festive?



Neil Fater

.....
I use the term lightly – desperate to finish off holiday albums will tack on almost anything to the end of them. Thus, as a genre, Christmas music is responsible for some of the worst lyrics ever recorded.

A *Squirrel's Christmas Wish* – a song near the end of the *Frosty the Snowman* album I listened to as a kid – is one of these songs. It's about a squirrel who works himself into a rabid state as he complains that squirrels deserve a Santa, too. (And this Santa should distribute Christmas pine cones, he argues. Not that anyone cares.) That

I want a Santa squirrel just for me.

No, I. Neil Fater, don't want a Santa squirrel. I don't have much use for any kind of squirrel, actually. I'm just quoting a line from one of many goofy songs my family used to play each Christmas morning when I was a kid.

Those who listen to Christmas albums know the type of song I'm talking about. Artists – and I

squirrely tune was followed by *Wait for the Wagon*, a song about Western people excited to be taking a wagon ride for Christmas. I still don't see the connection between wagons and Christmas – or the reason for the excitement – but, then, I don't wear spurs.

These songs would normally cause me to want to rip my hair out, and throw it at the people in the wagon. Yet, I've found that I remember these tunes with fondness, instead of disdain. They weren't as special as spending time with my family on Christmas Day. Or sitting under the tree a few days before Christmas, staring at the twinkling lights. Or getting to eat sugar cookies for breakfast on Christmas morning.

Still, listening and singing those awful songs as a kid was a joyful part of my Santa-filled Christmas morning, heaven help me. There's no accounting for taste, I guess, when it comes to Christmas. And if Christmas can get me to enjoy those songs, there must be something special about the day – and the memories it holds.

Here's hoping everyone has such fond memories and gets a little bite of whatever type of pine cone they're looking for this year.

Happy holidays!

Neil Fater is editor of the *Andover Townsman*.

Saddened by stories, pastor supports civil marriage

Editor, *Townsmen*:

I believe discrimination is wrong. I believe in civil rights for all. As a Massachusetts citizen, I am proud of our state and the Supreme Judicial Court's ruling that the Constitution forbids the creation of second-class citizens: that same-sex couples are entitled to equal civil marriage rights.

As a pastor and a newlywed, I am pro-marriage and pro-family. I am saddened by stories of those forbidden to enter ambulances, hospitals, funeral homes and pension offices to be with the one they love in sickness or even death. I am saddened by stories of those who lose everything when their partner dies or leaves, as neither they nor their children have any legal protections.

As a Unitarian Universalist, I am committed to religious freedom and I'm grateful this ruling preserves it; all religious bodies still determine which couples they shall marry religiously.

I am reminded that when the US Supreme Court ruled in 1967 in favor of interracial marriage, 72 percent of Americans disapproved and 48 percent believed it should be a crime. Today we find such thoughts incredible.

As of Nov. 23, 50 percent of Massachusetts citizens agreed with equal civil marriage rights and 11 percent were undecided. We need opportunities for respectful dialogue to hear how this decision will affect the lives of real people.

Now the out-of-state group "Focus on the Family" is com-

ing to Andover and I believe it will stir up agitation and bad feelings. If its members are truly concerned with Massachusetts families, I invite them to instead support our efforts with the People's Pantry, Partakers Prison ministry, the Thrift Shop or Habitat. At North Parish of North Andover we try to feed the hungry, visit those in prison, clothe the naked, house the homeless, and like the Good Samaritan show mercy to our neighbors.

The Rev. Lee Bluemel
Waverly Road
North Andover

(Ed. note: Rev. Bluemel is the pastor of the North Parish of North Andover at 190 Academy Road. She says about 35 percent of her congregation is from Andover.)

THE THURSDAY FILE

We're at our best when we're fully engaged.

DAVID WEINBERGER, AUTHOR,

All of us, whether guilty or not, whether old or young, must accept the past. It is not a case of coming to terms with the past. That is not possible. It cannot be subsequently modified or undone.

RICHARD VON WEIZSAECKER

The real price of everything, what everything really costs to the man who wants to acquire it, is the toil and trouble of acquiring it.

ADAM SMITH

I put the words down and push them a bit.

EVELYN WAUGH

You can tell whether a man is clever by his answers. You can tell whether a man is wise by his questions.

NAGUIB MAHFOUZ

Who travels for love finds a thousand miles not longer than one.

JAPANESE PROVERB

We are friends and I do like to pass the day with you in serious and inconsequential chatter. I wouldn't mind washing up beside you, dusting beside you, reading the back half of the paper while you read the front. We are friends and I would miss you, do miss you and think of you very often.

JEANETTE WINTERSON

Analyzing humor is like dissecting a frog. Few people are interested and the frog dies of it.

E. B. WHITE

The only real failure is failing to be creative.

JOE MARTINS

The Oscar Wilde quotation

A little sincerity is a dangerous thing, and a great deal of it is absolutely fatal.

Best quotation sent

It isn't that they can't see the solution. It is that they can't see the problem.

G.K. CHESTERON

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LETTERS

Timely attention needed on school class-time issue

Editor, Townsman:

School leaders should move forward expeditiously with a time on learning plan that both complies with Department of Education requirements and is appropriate and consistent with the values and educational goals for the children of this community. Unnecessary delay does not bode well for Andover's reputation, property values, and ongoing need to work with the Department of Education. Information, relating to taxpayer dollars, requested by Finance Committee members, selectmen, and others should be provided in a timely manner. Such well intentioned requests need not divert attention from paramount issues of: (1) whether the schools are adequately funded (2) whether the schools can or should sustain the level of cuts anticipated for fiscal year 2005, and (3) how to assure anticipated budget cuts for fiscal year 2005 and future years will be equitable throughout the town.

Debbie Silberstein
28 Burton Farm

Time for new school leader

Editor, Townsman:

For having let Andover fall into the school hours fiasco, for proposing costs above those approved by the town in order to (temporarily) get out of the problem, and for apparently flubbing the elementary math that should have illustrated the difference between teacher contract hours and state-required hours, Claudia Bach should be summarily dismissed.

Kevin Coffey
1 Stafford Lane

Time for selectmen, Finance Committee to get 'a clue'

Editor, Townsman:

Welcome to Andover! The roads are plowed right down to the blacktop and the sidewalks have no cracks. The roads have no bumps because they are constantly being repaved and the school system is in shambles! Children in the elementary schools have physical education and music once a week, students in Wood Hill Middle don't have a music or a technology class and students at Andover High School have 64 study halls next semester.

Thank goodness the Department of Education is stepping in to monitor the classroom time at the high school. After attending the townwide forum on Dec. 8, it was evident the selectmen and Finance Committee didn't have a clue about what is going on in our school system. Several members of both committees repeatedly asked Principal Peter Anderson questions about the high school that have already been reviewed in the *Townsman* or the *Eagle-Tribune*. If any of the members

had attended the school committee meetings they would have known that for the last two years the credits at the high school have been a major concern of Superintendent Claudia Bach's and Peter Anderson's. The recent editorial in the *Townsman* discussed the "Free flow of information." The "detailed information" has been there, but the Finance Committee and the selectmen have ignored it! The only person that was knowledgeable about the high school and how it is run was Debra Silberstein.

Perhaps our town officials should take the time and walk into the high school so they can understand the concept of leveling classes, block scheduling, and take a look at the size of the classrooms. Our town officials should speak to the students at the high school and they will quickly find out the students don't want to sit in study halls. The students want to take additional academic classes, they want to take courses that will improve their chances of getting

into a good college. Our town officials have robbed them of that opportunity. It was very evident at the meeting that many of the town officials did not have any children in the high school or the school system.

It is my understanding that Andover ranked in the top 10 percent in the state in reference to municipal spending, yet ranked below 50 percent in the state on per pupil spending. With the new year coming and a new budget in the works it is time for the town of Andover to reevaluate its spending priorities. It is time for the selectmen and Finance Committee to understand the school system and how it runs, it is time for the school department and the teachers union to reevaluate their priorities as well. The students in Andover have one shot at an education and we as a community are failing to give these children the education they deserve.

Sue Conway
23 Stoneybrook Circle

Israeli and Palestinian people want same thing: peace

Editor, Townsman:

I have been following with interest the debate surrounding the weekly peace vigil outside Old Town Hall. The situation in the Middle East is complex with legitimate claims on both sides. It is true, as Don Abbott and Rebecca Backman's letter states, "the Holy Land needs bridges, not walls," but simple slogans seem hollow to parents who send their children off to school on a city bus, wondering if there will be a terrorist attack that day.

Fortunately, honorable women and men - Israeli and Palestinian - have not

despaired. They continue to work tirelessly, within their governments and often outside their respective governments, quietly, below the radar screen, to seek a solution to this intractable and deadly stalemate.

As the authors' letter implies, there is a wide range of opinion in Israel, as there is in the United States. The right to publicly and freely express

one's view, as those in the peace vigil are doing, is a value both Americans and Israelis cherish.

Ultimately I believe that a solution will be found, for I have faith that Palestinian and Israeli fathers and mothers share the same dream: a desire to see their children grow up in a world of freedom, opportunity and peace.

Rabbi Robert S. Goldstein
Temple Emanuel

ANDOVER TOWNSMAN
LETTERS POLICY

THE *Townsman* accepts letters to the editor from the community. Letters must be typed and no longer than two, double-spaced pages. All letter writers must include addresses and phone numbers with their letters. The phone numbers will not be published.

The paper reserves the right to edit letters at its discretion. Reasons for editing include editing for length, clarity and style.

Letters should be received by the *Townsman* by Monday at 5 p.m. for consideration in that week's paper. They may be sent by mail, fax or e-mail. Letters sent by e-mail should be sent as text in the e-mail, not as e-mail attachments. They may be sent to nfater@andovertownsman.com. As a general rule, the paper does not publish anonymous letters or thank-you letters.

It also does not publish letters for candidates in the issue prior to an election.

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Townspeople

TOWN TALK



PHOTO BY DIANE DERBY

Perri Raffi (left), Ballardvale Historic District Commission member, and Chris Huntress, commission chairman, sing carols at the small lit tree on Ballardvale Green. Caroline Huntress (right) enjoys the view from her father's arm.

Ballardvale celebrates its third annual Holiday Tree Lighting

As the last snowflakes of a major snowstorm fell late in the afternoon of Sunday, Dec. 7, friends and neighbors gathered around a small evergreen tree on the Ballardvale Green for the third annual tree lighting.

Candles in hand, the 35 adults and children all joined in for the carol sing, led by Chris Huntress, chairman of the Ballardvale Historic District Commission, the sponsor of the yearly event.

Hot chocolate, hot cider, cookies and brownies were provided by commission members.

It's a wrap

Students in Tricia Salzano's High Plain Elementary art classes created artistic wrapping paper and donated more than 100 sheets of the colorful paper to Lazarus House in Lawrence. The paper will be used to wrap Christmas and birthday gifts donated to Lazarus House for people who need a little extra kindness, organizers said.

Students in grades 2 to 5 used a variety of artistic techniques to create "bold and beautiful" wrapping paper.

Printmaking techniques were used by finding various textures around the room with which to decorate the paper. Students experimented with small and large repeating patterns, and different types of paint.

The donation was enthusiastically received by Lazarus House where the staff commented that the presents would need wrapping soon. The community service committee of High Plain PTO helped to organize the project.



High Plain students Chris Ferreira, Rachel Margoless, Kelsey Flannery, Tom LoMedico, Zoe Co, Arielle Gillette, Rachel Ochs and Michael Davidson display some of the colorful wrapping paper they made for Lazarus House.



COURTESY PHOTO

Something sweet is brewing for Adele Teves (center) and her husband, Dennis (left), of Andover this holiday season. Teves was awarded a \$1,000 Grand Prize for the "Honey Dew This" List contest at the Honey Dew Donuts shop in Malden by franchisee Michael Greeley on Dec. 5. Teves' award-winning entry was inspired by her husband's flair for creating culinary dishes.

This 'honey do' list a winner

Award-winning entry sparked by husband's kitchen skills

By Ben Hellman

DURING HER FIRST 36 YEARS OF MARRIAGE, Adele Teves had never seen her husband cook. But that all changed when Dennis Teves was laid off this year and needed something to do. The results have Adele Teves feeling spoiled, and helped the couple win \$1,000.

Adele Teves won the money by entering a contest by Honey Dew Donuts searching for the area's best "honey do" list. Adele Teves wrote an essay about how her husband learned to cook gourmet meals as a result of her list to him, and won the \$1,000.

Adele Teves was trying to help her husband feel productive around their home at 8 Mohawk Road. "He's not the sort to stay home and he was getting on our nerves," she said. She began asking him to cook dinner. "Because he didn't know his way around my kitchen," said Teves, she began by leaving out all the recipes, spices, pans and utensils he would need.

But whatever recipe Adele Teves left for him, he managed to cook and have ready for her when she got home from work. "All of a sudden, he's making these gourmet recipes," said Teves.

Adele Teves saw the "Honey Dew This" List Contest and wrote an essay about how her husband made a complicated cauliflower dish. "It was a diet dish - I was trying to lose weight," she said. The recipe was two

DENNIS TEVES' CAULIFLOWER MAQUE CHOUX

1 medium head cauliflower cut into 1 inch-wide florets
1/2 cup olive oil
1/2 teas. kosher salt
1/8 teas. black pepper
1 can white hominy rinse and drained
1 cup heavy cream
2 tablespoons unsalted butter
2 tablespoons finely chopped ham
1/2 cup diced onion
1/2 cup diced green bell pepper
1/2 cup diced red bell pepper
2 tablespoons minced garlic
1/8 teaspoon dried hot red pepper flakes
1 bay leaf
2 tablespoons cider vinegar
1 cup chicken stock
1/2 cup fresh corn
1/4 cup fresh flat-leaf parsley

Toss cauliflower with oil, kosher salt, and pepper in a bowl. Spread in 1 layer in a shallow baking pan and roast, turning over with tongs halfway through roasting until golden brown and tender, 20 to 25 minutes total. Transfer cauliflower with a slotted spoon to paper towels to drain, then carefully pour oil from baking pan through a fine-mesh sieve into a small bowl.

While cauliflower roasts, bring hominy and cream just to a simmer in a 1 1/2 quart heavy saucepan over moderate heat, then remove from heat and let stand. Meanwhile, heat butter and 2 tablespoons strained oil in a 3-quart heavy saucepan, then cook ham stirring for 2 minutes. Add onion and bell peppers and cook, stirring until softened, 4 to 5 minutes. Stir in garlic, red pepper flakes and bay leaf and cook. Add vinegar and dock and simmer briskly until liquid is reduced by half. Stir in hominy mixture and corn and simmer for 2 minutes. Add cauliflower and salt to taste and simmer 2 minutes. Stir in parsley.

columns long. "I thought, 'He would never cook that.' I would never cook that," she said. But when she got home, the dinner was waiting for her.

"I never told my husband about (entering the contest). I wrote a whole essay. I thought, 'What are the chances of ever winning?'" she said. She was surprised when she heard that her essay won first prize - along with \$1,000 and a \$30 gift certificate

to Honey Dew Donuts.

Learning her husband could cook may be the best prize of all, however. "It's actually delicious. He's even improving," she said. In fact, although Dennis Teves is working again, he isn't likely to get off the cooking roster.

"Now I'm kind of spoiled, I must admit," said Adele Teves. "Now I know he cooks. He ruined that for the rest of our marriage."

Bouncing from Andover to Chile this holiday season

Andoverite makes basketball team that plays abroad

By Judy Wakefield

ONE'S NEVER TOO OLD when it comes to a passionate sport.

That's the attitude of 47-year-old Robert Jacobs of Apache Avenue whose passion for basketball will bounce him from training in Florida to South American courts this week. He was selected to be a member of the US Pan American Maccabi Masters Basketball Team.

The round-robin tournament is for Jewish athletes who are over 30, and three countries are taking part. The US and Chile are each fielding two teams while Argentina is also putting a team together. Jacobs left Monday for two-day training in Boca Raton, Fla. The athletes were scheduled to leave Florida on Wednesday, Dec. 24 bound for Santiago, Chile, where the tournament starts Sunday, Dec. 28 and runs through Jan. 4.

Jacobs, a longtime town resident, said this marks his second-time-around taking part in a Maccabi Masters basketball tournament. In July 2001, he played in Israel and the experience satisfied his passion for the game while also satisfying a long-held desire to see Israel.

"When someone told me they were playing in Israel, I knew I had to try out. I would get to see Israel and play basketball," he said. "It was great."

And, winning a bronze medal at the event

was the icing on the cake.

Fast forward to this year, and Jacobs once again traveled to the team tryouts in New York City. And, once again, he was thrilled to be selected for the team.

He said taking part in this league is intense yet fun.

"It's a wonderful program consisting of training, competitions, sightseeing tours and cultural exchanges with fellow Jewish athletes from around the world," he said. "A great experience."

His dribbling days started when he was young, as he played high school basketball and on an intramural level in college. Now a partner in a software design and consultant company in Wakefield, he has been playing his favorite game at least three times a week for years.

He plays basketball at Cedardale Health Club in Haverhill "52 weeks a year."

"Basketball has always been a passion for me," he replied when asked about his devotion. "I just love the sport and the competition."

In addition to his thrice-a-week games, he worked with a personal trainer for the past five weeks to get in top shape for the tournament.

He's traveling with girlfriend Krystal Hatchett while his son, Andrew Jacobs, is



PHOTOS BY TIM JEAN

Robert Jacobs (photo at left) of Apache Avenue collected some souvenirs from his first tour with the Maccabi Masters team.

staying in the states as he takes a break from studies at UMass Amherst.

"It's just a great experience for me," Jacobs summed up before he left Andover. "I feel very fortunate to be named to the team."



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HAPPY HOLIDAYS**Farmers' Almanac:
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Associated Press

Tune up the snowblower and get out the long johns. The newest edition of the Farmers' Almanac predicts a cold winter with plenty of snow.

Beginning in February, the almanac says, storms will target much of the eastern half of the country, with no let up until early spring, and parts of New England will get snow into late April.

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ENGAGEMENTS & WEDDINGS**Sebell-Maletz**

Jason Morris Sebell and Deena Maletz were married Sept. 6, at Silo Ridge Country Club in Amenia, N.Y.

The bride is the daughter of Steve and Gail Maletz of Sherman, Conn. She is a 1997 graduate of Binghamton University, with a bachelor of arts in psychology. She has a master of education and certificate of advanced graduate study from the University of Massachusetts Boston. She is a psychologist in the Shrewsbury Public Schools.

The groom is the son of Mark and Amy Sebell of New-Hill Drive. He is a 1998 graduate of Colgate University. He is the assistant director of Camps Kenwood-Evergreen in Potter Place, N.H.

The couple live in Hopkinton.

**Jason and Deena Sebell****Carey-Ryan**

Mr. and Mrs. James M. Carey of Eastchester, NY have announced the engagement of their daughter, Alison, to William K. Ryan, son of Mrs. and Mrs. William T. Ryan of Andover.

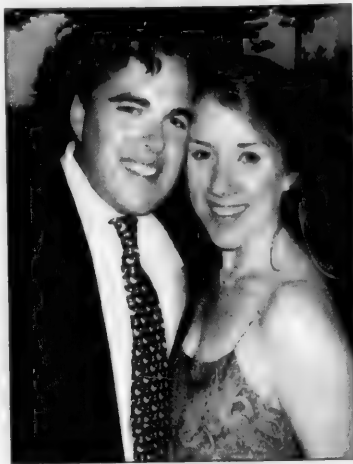
Ms. Carey graduated from the Convent of the Sacred Heart in Greenwich, Conn., and Boston College with a bachelor of arts degree.

She works in the Principal Gifts group in the Office of Development at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston.

Mr. Ryan graduated from Pingree School in South Hamilton, and Boston College with a bachelor of science degree from the Carroll School of Management.

He is director of research at Ryan Financial Advisors in Andover.

The couple plan a May wedding.

**William K. Ryan and Alison Carey****Hall-Williams**

Hedy and David Hall of Chicago, Ill. announce the engagement of their daughter, Julie Drew Hall, to Joel M. Williams, son of Karen and Kenneth M. Williams of Andover.

**Joel Williams and Julie Hall**

Ms. Hall received a bachelor's degree in art history from Colby College and is currently pursuing her certificate in museum studies from Harvard while working for the National Heritage Museum in Lexington.

Mr. Williams, a graduate of the Holderness School, received his bachelor's degree in economics from Colby College.

The couple is currently living in Burlington, where Mr. Williams is employed by the Gutierrez Co. The couple plan a May wedding at the Cranwell Resort in the Berkshires.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

SouthWinds at South Church will offer a 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Service of spiritual celebration and joyful sounds of the season with the music of the Blessed Gospel Choir. Mike Ebner, Phillips Academy Protestant chaplain, will lead the service around the theme of "Peace On Earth?"

Baptist

Andover Baptist Church
7 Central St., Andover
978-475-0166

Catholic

St. Augustine Church
43 Essex St., Andover
978-475-0050

CHRISTMAS EVE: Mass, 4 p.m., 6 p.m. (pageant), 8 p.m. (youth Mass), 10:30 p.m. (choir Mass; with choir at 9:50 p.m.).
Mass in lower church, 4:05 p.m.
Mass at Merrimack College: 3:30 and 5 p.m. in Volpe Auditorium; 4:30 p.m. in Collegiate Church.
CHRISTMAS DAY: Mass, 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m.
Mass at Merrimack College, 11 a.m.

St. Joseph's Church
22 High Vale Lane
Ballardvale
978-475-0050

CHRISTMAS EVE: Mass, 4 p.m., 6 p.m., children's pageant.
CHRISTMAS DAY: Mass, 10 a.m.

St. Robert Bellarmine Church
Haggetts Pond Road,
Andover
978-683-8922

CHRISTMAS EVE Masses: Mass, 4 p.m., main church (contemporary music group) and Driscoll Hall (schola and piano); 7:30 p.m., cantor and organ; 11:30 p.m., choir concert; midnight, adult choir.
CHRISTMAS DAY Mass: 10 a.m. children's choir.

Congregational

Free Christian Church
31 Elm St., Andover
978-475-0700
CHRISTMAS EVE: Services, 5 p.m., 7 p.m., 11 p.m.

Episcopal

Christ Church
25 Central St., Andover
978-475-0529
CHRISTMAS EVE: 4:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II - Family service; 7:30 p.m., Festival Holy Eucharist Rite II with choir and brass; 10 p.m., Contemplative Holy Eucharist Rite II.
CHRISTMAS DAY: 10 a.m., Holy Eucharist.
SUNDAY, JAN. 4: 8 a.m., Holy Eucharist Rite I; 10 a.m., Holy Eucharist Rite II and Epiphany Pageant.

Interdenominational
BrookRidge
Community Church
3 Dundee Park, Andover

978-749-3640

CHRISTMAS EVE: Family Service.

New England Bible Church
60 Chandler Road, Andover
978-475-4381

CHRISTMAS EVE: 7 p.m., Hear the Christmas story and enjoy musical performances and traditional carols; Pastor Chip Thompson will share a holiday devotional message.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 31: New Year's Eve Baptism Service, 7 p.m.

Lutheran

Faith Lutheran Church
360 S. Main St., Andover
978-475-4059

Unitarian

Unitarian Universalist
Congregation in Andover
6 Locke St., Andover
978-475-4454
CHRISTMAS EVE: 7 p.m. Candlelight service.

United Church of Christ

South Church
41 Central St., Andover
978-475-0321

CHRISTMAS EVE: 3 p.m., Lessons and Carols, Candlelight; 5 p.m., Lessons & Carols, Youth Choirs, family service and pageant; 7 p.m., SouthWinds service, a spiritual celebration with the joyful sounds of the season featuring the music of the Blessed Gospel Choir; Phillips Academy Protestant Chaplain Mike Ebner will lead the service around the theme of "Peace On Earth?"; 11 p.m., Candlelight service, Lessons & Carols, Sanctuary Choir with organ prelude at 10:40 p.m.

SUNDAY, DEC. 28: 10:30 a.m. Family worship, baptisms, carols; no Sunday School.

West Parish Church
129 Reservation Road
Andover
978-475-3528

CHRISTMAS EVE: 5 p.m., Family Christmas Eve Service; 11 p.m., Candlelight Service; the Christmas Eve services celebrate Christmas with carols and readings. The public is invited to join with the church in these special services.

United Methodist

Ballardvale United Church
(United Methodist and United Church of Christ)
23 Clark Road, Andover
978-475-2506

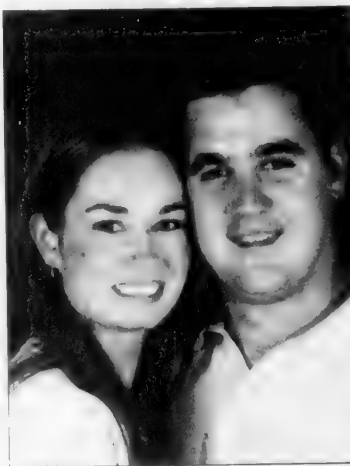
Doyle-Cashman

Stacie Elisabeth Doyle of Methuen, daughter of the late Joseph Doyle and Sandra Doyle-Pitman of Manchester, N.H. and Christopher Ryan Cashman of Methuen, son of Stephen and Patricia Cashman of Andover, announce their engagement.

Ms. Doyle is a graduate of Manchester Memorial High School. She is employed at Verizon in Boston as a central office technician.

Mr. Cashman is a graduate of Andover High School and Plymouth State College. He is employed at Verizon in Wakefield as a splice service technician.

The couple plan a May wedding.

**Stacie Doyle and Christopher Cashman****Feingold Thayer-Bhattacharya**

Sujata and Jyotirjiban Bhattacharya of North Andover recently announced the marriage of their daughter, Mala Bhattacharya, and Benjamin Feingold Thayer, son of Carol Feingold of Amesbury and Warren Thayer of Norwich, Vt., on Nov. 15, at Silver Lake, N.H.

**Benjamin Feingold Thayer and Mala Bhattacharya**

A graduate of Andover High School, Ms. Bhattacharya received a bachelor of arts degree in music and psychology from Brandeis University and her master of music degree in opera performance from Longy School of Music. A private tutor, she recently performed with the Pine Mountain Music Festival opera company and the Berkshire Opera Company.

A graduate of Amesbury High School, Mr. Feingold Thayer received his bachelor of science degree in visual media and film studies from American University and studied at the Akademie Muzickych Umeni Praha FAMU in Prague. He teaches at Dearborn Academy, Arlington.

The couple live in Winthrop.

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OBITUARIES

Susan A. Kerwin

Worked in family businesses

Susan A. (Kumph) Kerwin, 60, of Andover died Saturday, Dec. 20 at Lawrence General

Hospital.

Born in Lynn, she graduated from Lynnfield High School and had lived in Andover since 1965.

She was an officer of Shaw-sheen Rubber Co., which her family owned, and was a secretary in her husband's optometric practice in Andover.

Members of her family include her husband, Robert W. Kerwin; daughter, Sandra and her husband Richard J. Smith of Sandown, N.H.; and two grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Brigham and Women's Hospital, Neurology Department, 75 Francis St., Boston, MA 02115.

Arrangements were by C.R. Lyons & Sons Funeral Home, 28 Elm St., Danvers.

DEATHS

Alice M. Gillan, 83
Pauline Griffin, 84
Jane A. (Cote) Hebert, 56
Susan A. Kerwin, 60
Jeanne Michaud, 42
"Benny" Sayles, 81
Ida (Segal) Soreff, 82
Raymond J. St. Hilaire, 78

DEATHS ELSEWHERE

MICHAUD — Jeanne (Delaunier) Michaud, 42, of Manchester, N.H. died Thursday, Dec. 18 at home. Members of her family include her father, Raymond Delaunier of Andover.

ST. HILAIRE — Raymond J. St. Hilaire, 78, of Lawrence, died Sunday, Dec. 21 at Shaughnessy-Kaplan Rehabilitation Hospital in Salem. He was a machinist at Raytheon Co. in Andover before retiring.

Lifelong resident dies at 81

'Benny' Sayles was familiar downtown figure

By Judy Wakefield

He was a fixture on Andover's downtown scene for years, walking Main Street collecting empty cans for recycling or simply saying hello to passersby.

Benjamin Sayles — or simply "Benny" as he was known around town — has died. He was 81.



'Benny' Sayles

The lifelong Andover resident died Thursday, Dec. 11 at Holy Family Hospital.

His brother, Marvin Sayles, said he had been sick for a long time and had been in a nursing home before moving back home. He was born with a weak immune system and battled asthma all his life. The ambulance was called to his home on Dec. 11 and he died at the hospital.

Benny lived with his brother on Salem Street in the house where they were both born.

"Lived here all his life," Marvin said of his brother. "He loved it here in this house."

Mr. Sayles was a self-employed landscape gardener and a member of the Merrimack Valley Branch of the NAACP, serving on the membership committee and receiving many awards for the recruitment of new members.

He was a graduate of Pynchard High School and the Essex Agricultural School in Middleton. He attended extension courses at Harvard University and was a member of the National Association of Professional Gardeners and the Baptist Church in Lawrence.

"He was a very quiet guy," Marvin Sayles said. "And, he probably made the walk from home to downtown every day for many years."

Often, he would ask whomever he saw to give him a ride home after his long trek to downtown.

Benny loved kids and his home was always stocked with plenty of candy at Halloween, as he enjoyed checking out all those costumes.

Marvin Sayles said many friends have been stopping by their house offering condolences, as funeral arrangements were private under the direction of Dewhurst & Conte Funeral Home, 28 Florence St., Andover.

"He was always cheerful, said hello to everyone but was a very quiet man, too. We abided by his wishes and didn't do anything special (for a funeral). He didn't want that," Marvin Sayles said.

In addition to his brother, members of his family include two sisters, Doretta Gardener of Newburyport and Carol Ellock of Hyde Park; and several nieces and nephews.

Ida Soreff

52-year resident, member of Temple Emanuel

Ida (Segal) Soreff, 82, of Andover, died Thursday, Dec. 18 at Sutton Hill Nursing Home in North Andover.

She was born in Haverhill and graduated from Haverhill High School.

She had been an Andover resident for the past 52 years.

She was a member of Temple Emanuel in Andover, the Sisterhood, a life member of Hadasah, member of Indian Ridge Country Club, and was a volunteer at Lawrence General Hospital.

Mrs. Soreff was devoted to her family and her home and was an avid tennis player, golfer, bowler, and bridge player.

Members of her family include her husband of 61 years, Sidney H. Soreff; daughters, Barbara E. "Barbie" Soreff of Framingham, and Patricia "Patti" Clouse and her husband Howard of Exeter, N.H.; brothers, Hyman Segal of Delray, Fla. and Jack Segal of Bay Harbor Island, Fla.; three grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service period continues through Monday evening, Dec. 29 at her home.

Arrangements are by the H.L. Farmer and Sons Funeral Homes, Haverhill.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of the North Shore, 10 Elm St., Danvers, MA 01923.

Alice M. Gillan

Public school teacher lived here 50 years

Alice M. (Gately) Gillan, 83, of Montevallo, Ala. and formerly of Andover, died Saturday, Dec. 19 at the Adirondack Medical Center in Saranac, N.Y.

Born in Haverhill, she graduated from St. James High School in Haverhill and Regis College in Weston.

Mrs. Gillan was a public school teacher in Lawrence until she retired in 1980.

She lived in Andover for 50 years before moving to Alabama in 1998.

She was the widow of James M. Gillan.

Members of her family include daughters, Jane M. Vaccaro and her husband Paul of Montevallo, and Carol A. Smith and her husband Mark of Gibsonville, N.C.; son, James M. Gillan Jr. and his wife Mary of Hillsboro, N.C.; sisters, Ann G. Teoli, Nona G. Beauvais and H. Marie Higgins, all of Haverhill; brothers, Edward L. Gately of Groveland and Richard M. Gately of Rye, N.H.; three grandsons; and several nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews.

Calling hours were scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 24 from 9 to 10 a.m. at the C. Frank Linnehan & Son Funeral Home, 52 Salem St., Haverhill.

A funeral will follow at 10 a.m. from the funeral home, followed by a Mass at 10:30 a.m. in Sacred Hearts Church, 165 South Main St., Haverhill.

Burial will be in Elmwood Cemetery, Salem Street, Haverhill.

Jane A. Hebert

Technician, landscaper

Jane A. (Cote) Hebert, 56, of Mayflower Circle, Andover, died Thursday, Dec. 18 at home. Born in Bridgeport, Conn., she had lived in Andover for the past 23 years.

A University of Connecticut graduate, she was a medical technician for several hospitals including Griffin Hospital in Derby, Conn. and Bridgeport Hospital.

She was a landscape designer specializing in flower designs, and was an avid gardener who enjoyed hand crafts, cooking, and sewing.

Members of her family include her husband, Marcel R. Hebert; her mother, Lucille (Cyr) Cote of Monroe, Conn.; daughters, Lisa M. Fabian and her husband Kristopher of Brookline, N.H., and Michelle A. Hebert of Phoenix, Ariz.; brothers, Raymond Cote of Bridgeport, Morris Cote of Prescott Valley, Ariz., Richard Cote of Burlington Flats, N.H., John Cote of Newtown, Conn. and James Cote of Trumbull, Conn.; sister, Susan Arribas of Oxford, Conn.; and several nieces and nephews.

Memorial contributions may be made to National Empowerment Center, 599 Canal St., Lawrence, MA 01840.

Pauline Griffin

Artist attended Pynchard High

Pauline "Polly" (Lee) Griffin, 84, of Winchester and formerly

of North Andover, died Thursday, Dec. 18 at Winchester Hospital.

Born in Stoneham, she graduated from Pynchard High School in Andover and attended the Museum School of Fine Arts in Boston.

She was an accomplished artist, specializing in pastels and silhouettes, her family said.

She volunteered as a Sunday school teacher at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in North Andover and at the Thrift Shop of North Andover and Historical Society of North Andover. She was trustee of the Griffin Museum in Winchester and supported the Trustees of Reservation. She was a member of the North Andover Garden Club, the Traveler's Club and the Winchester Country Club. She enjoyed traveling, art, nature and wild flowers.

She was the widow of Frank W. Lee, to whom she was married for 25 years, and Arthur Griffin, to whom she was married for 22 years.

Members of her family include her children, Bradford W. Lee and his wife Patricia of Austin, Texas, and Elizabeth L. Varley and her husband Tom of Andover; stepdaughter, Lee Griffin of California; a brother, Douglas Howe and his wife Marie of Andover; a niece; three nephews; and four grandchildren.

Services and burial were private.

Memorial contributions may be made to the McDonough Fund for Nurse Education, 41 Highland Ave., Winchester, MA 01890; or the Griffin Museum, 65 Shore Road, Winchester MA 01890.

ALL THOSE YEARS AGO

100 Years Ago — 1903

Ervin Murch is able to be around again, having sufficiently recovered from his burns received at Tyer Rubber Co.'s factory some time ago.

The annual meeting and election of officers of the Degree of Honor will be held in the Workman Hall next Wednesday evening. A full attendance is desired.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Smith have returned from their wedding trip and are spending Christmas with the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph F. Cole, Elm Street.

The Andover town team will play the Melrose High School hockey team this afternoon on Rabbit's Pond.

Louis Allen Walker, of Waterbury Conn., has been elected assistant manager of the Phillips Academy track team.

The employees of the Tyer Rubber Co. were each presented with a dollar yesterday, as is the usual custom of the firm at Christmas.

Nathan S. Shattuck is putting a hot water heater into his house on Chester Street.

Joseph B. Scott opened his new store in the Vale under very auspicious circumstances last Monday.

The 10th week of the Merrimack Valley YMCA bowling league came to a close last Tuesday, when Haverhill defeated Manchester in three straight games.

There is so much to admire about the sartorial perfection in the cut of overcoats, extending to frock coats, which have become favorites this season.

75 Years Ago — 1928

One of the most modern and thoroughly equipped filling stations in Northern New England, carrying a complete line of Tydol and Texaco gasoline and

petroleum products, was formally opened Saturday morning, Dec. 22, by Shorten Brothers, well-known Andover auto accessory dealers, at 11 Elm St.

The annual loss of food animals to the United States, through disease and neglect, is estimated to in excess of \$200,000,000. It is likely that this estimate on the part of government officials is far below the actual loss.

Nearly a third of the men on the streets of New York City's main business section wear no hats, and the fad is growing. The "Hatless Manhattan" movement is partly responsible. The head of this crusade, one Abraham Vogel, speaks every night in Colon Square, promising converts freedom from baldness, better health all around and savings of 50 cents to \$2 a week in hat costs, including tips to hat-checking pirates. The hat stores would like to poison Vogel.

Whooping cough is raging through the Bradlee district.

Miss Ida Grover, student at Boston University, is spending the Christmas holiday at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Grover on Harding Street.

The varsity club sponsored a successful dance Tuesday evening at the November Club house. The Parody Club Orchestra furnished the music.

Henry H. Burgis of 30 Wiley Road appeared before Judge Clover J. Stone last Friday afternoon in Andover police court, charged with drunkenness and driving while under the influence of liquor.

Hugh McClellan, a senior at Yale; James McClellan, a student at Monson Academy, where he was football captain during the past season; and Miss Elizabeth McClellan, a student at MIT, are enjoying the holidays at their home on South

Main Street.

50 Years Ago — 1953

The Andover Youth Center will have its annual Christmas parties this Saturday.

Miss Joan L. Dumont, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George H. Dumont of Tewksbury Street, Ballardvale, has received notice that she has successfully completed the state board of registration's examinations for registered nurses.

Two new film strips have been added to the library and may be borrowed for use with groups or clubs.

The lack of seasonable Christmas weather during the past few weeks has slowed down business for the rubber footwear industry, to the extent that the Tyer Rubber Co. has in the last two weeks laid off 200 workers.

The name of Mrs. Sarah J. Burke, 390 Main St., was drawn to serve on the grand jury throughout the year 1954, to be on call when the jury convenes.

Charged with breaking and entering in the night at the old Dyson estate on Andover Street, Ballardvale, two Haverhill men were arraigned Monday in District court at Lawrence and both ordered held for the grand jury under bonds of \$1000 such after probable cause was found by Judge John J. Darcy.

The board of registrars of voters and the board of assessors

have appointed the same assistants for 1954 as they had this year.

Residents of the Andover Home for Aged People received a very pleasant Christmas surprise yesterday when they were presented with a television set by the Andona Society.

Girl Scout Troop 86 held its Christmas party recently at the home of Mrs. Robert Townsend, scout leader, 16 Brooks St.

Fire, which spread through partitions and broke out through the roof, badly damaged the home of Arthur Lovejoy on Lovejoy Road last Thursday morning.

The following wedding intentions have been filed at the office of Town Clerk George H. Winslow: Jerome E. Andrews Jr., 57 Central St., and Joyce Bisbee, 16 Louisburg Square, Boston. Napoleon E. Godreau, Woburn Street, and Margaret E. Greene, 86 South Broadway, Lawrence.

Fred A. Buthmann of Dacom Road was drawn at Monday night's meeting of the Board of Selectmen to serve as a juror at the term of superior criminal court opening at Salem Jan. 18.

A six-foot blue spruce tree was stolen from the lawn of Mrs. Ann J. Zink some time last Wednesday night, according to a report to the police. Roots and all were up and taken away, possibly by somebody who wanted a Christmas tree.

Raymond Nolin, USAF, is spending a 10-day furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Nolin of River Street. He has been stationed at Sampson Air Force Base, N.Y.

Miss Irene Harnden, a member of the Ice Capades cast, is enjoying a few days at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Everel W. Harnden of Haggetts Pond Road.

25 Years Ago — 1978

Police Sergeant James F. Johnson has been named administrative assistant in the Andover police department. The position is to provide for a smooth transition of a new administrator, upon retirement of Chief David L. Nicoll next year.

The appointments of five Andover men to the Commuter Rail Study Committee were approved by selectmen Monday night. The committee will explore the advisability of Andover's joining the Merrimack Valley Transit Authority

and getting commuter rail service to Andover, via the MBTA.

Money for several scholastic prizes, which were apparently forgotten and went unawarded for years, was discovered by a committee appointed by the town manager to review the administration of trust funds in the care of Andover.

The Andover Post Office reported high volume Christmas mailing this week. According to Michael J. Curran, officer in charge of the Andover office, the volume of mail this Christmas season, as measured by stamp sales, is slightly higher than last year. From Dec. 1 to Dec. 14, the Andover post office sold \$48,810.96 worth of stamps.

J. Maynard Austin has been appointed town manager in Franklin, Austin, who resigned his position as manager in Andover in October 1977, will be the first manager for the Nor-folk community of 20,000.

Town manager Jared S.A.

Continued on page 20

EXTENDED DEADLINE:
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Business

BRIEFS

Keefe named to travel board

At the recent closing general session of the American Society of Travel Agents' 73rd World Travel Congress and Cruise/Caribbeanfest, at the Miami Beach Convention Center, Tom Keefe, an elected member of ASTA's board of directors, was sworn in with other new and reelected officers.

"I am proud to be inaugurated as a member of ASTA's board of directors. I look forward to working with the other members of the board to promote the best interests of travel agents and ASTA," said Keefe, owner of Addison Travel in Andover.

Together, the group pledged to uphold the society's mission of enhancing professionalism and profitability of members worldwide through effective representation in industry and government affairs, providing continuing education and training, and identifying and meeting the needs of the traveling public.

Crowley joins TSB Securities

Linda Crowley has joined the TSB Securities Group at the Savings Bank as a registered representative of Commonwealth Financial Network, working with investment officer James Taylor.

Crowley is available to help clients evaluate investment alternatives including mutual funds, individual stocks, bonds, tax-deferred annuities and 401(k) plans and rollovers. Crowley was previously a certified senior adviser with Linsco/Private Ledger at EF Financial in Boston, a boutique investment planning firm. She also has several years of experience in residential property management in the Greater Boston area. A certified senior adviser, she is a certified financial planner candidate at the College of Financial Planning in Denver, Colo. She is a graduate of the University of New Hampshire at Durham.

TSB Securities Group, an independent service at the Savings Bank, is located at the bank's Andover office at 84 Main St., with an office also in Wakefield.



Linda Crowley

Merrill Lynch bullish on locals

A local team of three Merrill Lynch financial advisers who work in the firm's Andover office were recently recognized nationally by Merrill Lynch for their consistent delivery of outstanding service to their clients. The Ferrante, Kavanagh and Hurst Group consists of:

Lawrence A. Hurst, first vice president-investments. Hurst is a senior financial adviser and lives with his family in Andover.

Jeffrey A. Ferrante, first vice president-investments. Ferrante is a certified financial planner and wealth management adviser. He resides in North Andover with his family.

Bernard B. Kavanagh, first vice president-investments. Kavanagh is a certified financial manager and lives with his family in North Andover.

These financial consultants design and implement comprehensive financial management programs, and emphasize Merrill Lynch planning services to assist clients. "Their dedication to customer service has enabled them to be nationally recognized by Merrill Lynch," according to a release.

New agent at Howe & Doherty

Rosemary Holmes-Draper has joined Prudential Howe & Doherty Realtors as a real estate professional.

Holmes-Draper is a retired teacher and lifelong resident of North Andover. An active member of that community, she participates in such organizations as the North Andover Garden Club and the Merrimack College Alumni Choir. She graduated from Merrimack College and has been a real estate professional for more than five years, specializing in buyer representation, fine homes and equine properties. "We're excited to welcome Rosemary to the Prudential Howe & Doherty family, and are certain she will be a real asset to our firm," said JB Doherty, broker/owner.

Holmes-Draper will be working from Prudential Howe & Doherty's Main Street office.

Hoping to turn what glitters into gold

Sisters launching Sparkle Boston, a new Chestnut Street make-up store

By Andrea Gregory

It is pink, it is sparkle-y and it is lavished in elegant touches. Soon, Sparkle Boston also will be the latest addition to the list of businesses at 28 Chestnut St.

Sisters Julie Townsend Defina and Laura Townsend plan to run a make-up store that will put those hard-to-find beauty products in the hands of Andover shoppers.

"It's been a lifelong dream," said Defina, excited to see it all coming together.

Three years ago, she became a licensed esthetician, but she never pursued a career in the beauty field. She became much more enthralled with the dream of running a high end make-up store, and for the past two years she has been actively scouting locations. All along, Andover has been her desired location, she said.

Although neither sister lives in town, Defina is already familiar with the Andover business world. For six years, she has been running Paws-atively Pals - a dog-walking business in town.

"I love this town. I just think it's a great fit," for both of her businesses, Defina said.

The sisters are from Cambridge. Defina now lives in Bradford and her sister lives in Gloucester.

"Once I moved out here, I realized things weren't as accessible out here. I just thought, wouldn't it be a good idea to bring a little bit of a cosmopolitan feel to the suburbs?" Defina said. "I'm really into what celebrities are wearing - who wears what kind of lipstick, who uses what kind of skin care. We're going to be constantly adding things. We know you have to keep things fresh."

Both sisters laugh about how



PHOTO BY TIM JEAN

Julie Townsend Defina (left) and Laura Townsend, co-owners of Sparkle Boston, plan to open their high-end make-up store at 28 Chestnut St.

Defina has always been a "girly girl" with an eye for fashionable products and a keen sense for following trends. Now they want to see how well those traits pay off in the business world.

"My mom used to call me Sparkle Plenty when I was a little girl," said Defina, explaining why they are calling the store Sparkle Boston. Defina said they tacked Boston onto the name to give it a more urban feel.

The boutique will be complete and ready to open once all of the make-up, skin-care products, fragrance and accessories are set up

for sale. The sisters are keeping their product lines and name brands under wraps until they open, but they expect to create a different scene than can be found at mall make-up counters, and offer different products than local drug stores, they said.

They are aiming to open early next year, and "We are really looking to appeal to all," Defina said.

Defina said, growing up, she looked to Townsend for fashion and beauty advice. "Times have changed, because now I'm always looking to her," said Townsend.

Townsend will play a different

role than her sister, in establishing the business. "I basically have a business background because I've been in sales for years," said Townsend.

The two sisters said they are having fun with the store's identity.

"I think it's kind of traditional in some ways," said Townsend. "We were really careful not to go too crazy with the sparkle."

The store will have sparkling counter tops and pink walls. But classic French doors and a chandelier are expected to create a design balance, the sisters said.

Fox recognized by Society of Engineers

Award highlights accomplishments in engineering management for Andover resident, CDM president

CDM President and Andover resident Richard D. Fox has received the John I. Parcel-Leif J. Sverdrup Award from the American Society of Civil Engineers. The Parcel-Sverdrup award is given annually to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding engineering management leadership, exemplary character, and professional integrity, according to a release.

Fox has 32 years of broad management experience, including experience with large-scale infrastructure program management; planning, design and construction of water and wastewater facilities; capital financing; civil litigation, and negotiations with regulatory agencies. He served as project director for the 10-year, \$4 billion Boston Harbor Project, the

largest court-ordered cleanup effort in the history of the Clean Water Act.



Richard Fox

As CDM president, Fox is responsible for the oversight of numerous units, and he directs the firm's global marketing and strategic planning efforts. He also serves on CDM's executive and finance committees, as well as the board of directors.

Fox holds a bachelor's and a master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Maine, and a juris doctorate from Suffolk University. He is a registered professional engineer in five states, a Diplomate of the American Academy of Environmental Engineers, a member of Phi Beta Kappa, and was selected by Engineering News-Record as an individual who "made marks in the construction industry" in 1992.

HAWTHORN SUITES

Free room at the inn for the holidays

The Hawthorn Suites Hotel is offering free lodging to families of patients staying in area hospitals, nursing/convalescent homes or in hospice care during the holidays. As part of the hotel's holiday giving program, the hotel is making available complimentary accommodations for families traveling more than 50 miles to visit their hospitalized or convalescing relatives through Sunday, Dec. 28. Family members may stay one free night with additional nights available at a special holiday rate of \$59.

To make arrangements, have one's hospital, nursing home or hospice representative contact Cindy Babcock, sales manager, or Ted Maurice, assistant general manager at the Hawthorn Suites - Andover, at 978-475-6000 in order to make a reservation. Request the Holiday Giving Program when calling for reservations.

Agency offers no-cost holiday guides

'Tis the season. But for many, the holiday season brings stress, exhaustion and problems with drug and alcohol use.

According to clinical director Michael Levy of Andover, this year CAB Health & Recovery Services - a 45-year-old substance abuse agency serving individuals and families in greater Boston, the North Shore and the Merrimack Valley - is offering no-cost holiday tip-sheets entitled "Ding-Dong Soberly: Hosting that Holiday Bash," "Groovin' in the Cube: Survive that Holiday Work Party," and "Our Top Ten Holiday Tips."

The information is available and mailed at no charge to the public. Those interested can call 1-800-323-2224, Ext. 685, or send an e-mail to info@cabhealth.org.

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GETTING INTO THE ROTATION

While sufficient time and diligence spent with a regular manual toothbrush usually yields very good results, some people opt for electric toothbrushes. If you are among them, you may be interested to know that a recent report finds that power toothbrushes with rotational/oscillation action perform the best. These are toothbrushes that rotate in one direction and then another. According to analysis of data from clinical trials, rotational oscillation toothbrushes removed up to eleven percent more plaque and reduced bleeding of the gums by up to seventeen percent more than manual or other power toothbrushes. Again, however, it should be pointed out that conscientious brushing with a manual brush can be just as effective in the right hands.

We'll be glad to discuss toothbrushes and the many options available to keep your smile a beautiful, healthy one. We believe in an informed patient, and we promise to provide you with information regarding all aspects of your dental hygiene. Whatever procedure is called for in your case, you'll feel more comfortable knowing that our goals are the same as yours - a healthy mouth and a brilliant smile. Full-service, compassionate dental care for the family is available at 296 Lowell Street (Rt 133), with easy access off Rt. 93. Call 978-475-2431 for an appointment.

P.S. Flossing is an important adjunct to brushing regardless of the kind of toothbrush used.

Sports

AHS ROUNDUP

Order on the court

Vetrano is taking aim at AHS career hoop totals

By Rick Harrison

[Editor's Note: Due to the early Townsman deadline because of the Christmas holiday today, all Andover High sports played Monday and Tuesday of this week will appear in next week's AHS ROUNDUP.]

THE ANDOVER HIGH BOYS BASKETBALL team started the season in an auspicious way as Jack Barrett, Casey Cosgrove and Bobby Hughes combined for 52 points in an impressive 77-60 non-league victory over visiting Eastern Mass. Division 1 power Boston College High.

As usual, the game was played before a large and vocal crowd at the Dunn Gym.

It was not so much that the Golden Warriors won the game, but the convincing way they did it.

"Chris Vetrano came up to me before the game and asked if I was nervous," said veteran AHS coach Dave Fazio. "I told him the team could relax me by playing good defense."

"We can score with the best of them," noted Fazio. "Our success against the good teams will depend on whether or not we defend. And I have to say every kid that played for us tonight was tremendous on defense."

Vetrano, who entered this week's Christmas Tournament needing only 27 points to pass Tom McLaughlin and become the all-time leading boys basketball scorer at Andover, netted just seven points against B.C. High.

But, in a nice display of unselfish play, he passed out a career-high 12 assists.

"Best stat of the night," said Fazio in reference to Vetrano's dozen assists. "We had three players in double figures and Chris wasn't one of them — and we still won by 17. That's pretty impressive."

Vetrano, with 1,538 career points, also entered the tourney needing only 63 to pass Charlotte Muller as the overall leader, boy or girl, in AHS hoop history. Muller graduated with exactly 1,600 during her four illustrious years.

The AHS girls hockey, boys hockey, girls and boys track and boys swim/dive teams also opened their 2003-04 seasons with victories, while the reigning State Division 1 champion Andover girls hoop team had its win streak snapped with a 54-49 loss to Central Catholic.

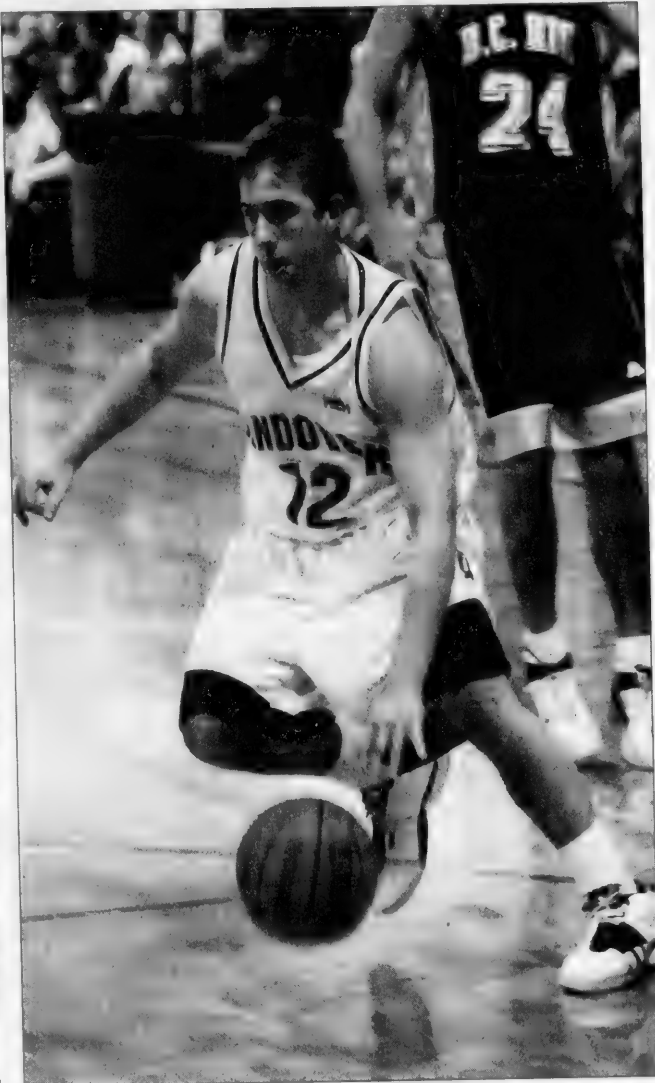


PHOTO BY TIM JEAN

No hurry — Chris Vetrano (No. 12) had a career-high 12 assists as Andover's Golden Warriors played host to Boston College High, winning 77-60. Vetrano entered this week's Greater Lawrence Christmas Tournament needing only 63 points to pass Charlotte Muller's 1,600 mark and become the overall all-time career points leader at AHS.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Andover began its quest for the 2003 Greater Lawrence Christmas Tournament championship earlier this week when it tapped off against Lawrence High (2-1) in the feature game of the first night of action at the North Andover Field House.

The Golden Warriors were looking for double payback against the Lancers, who beat them in the Christmas tourney semifinals last December and then ousted the locals from the Division 1 North Tournament in the first round.

Andover 77 B.C. High 60

The Golden Warriors led 36-28 at the half and slowly-but-steadily widened the gap after the break.

Far from a slouch opponent, the Eaglets entered the game 2-0 including a 10-point win (after leading by as many as 17) over Lawrence.

Capt. Jack Barrett, in addition to a game-high 18 points, also passed out seven assists and had three steals.

Bobby Hughes added nine rebounds to his 17 points, and 15 of sophomore guard Casey Cosgrove's 17 points came on five three-pointers.

Sophomore guard Greg Vetrano contributed five points, Jon DeLeo had four points and seven rebounds, Steve Games four points, Steve Renfro three free throws and Phil Perkins two points.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

The AHS girls, figuring to bounce back from the loss to Central, played Merrimack Valley Conference rival Dracut and non-league Peabody earlier this week.

They open defense of their Greater Lawrence Christmas Tournament championship on Sunday at North Andover.

A-Mac scoring

In her pursuit of 1,000 career points, Ashley McLaughlin notched her 800th in the Central game and had 825 overall when she stepped on the court against Dracut on Monday night.

Later this season she will join sisters Charlotte (1,600) and Jenny (1,498) Muller in the elite 1,000 club.

Central Catholic 54 Andover 49

Central (2-0), the only team to beat the reigning state champs last year (53-50), once again turned the trick on its home court to snap Andover's carryover 10-game winning streak.

After pulling out to a 26-23 halftime lead, the Lady Warriors were outscored 31-23 in the final 16 minutes as CCHS chalked up the triumph.

"It's very early and we'll get better," said Andover coach Jim Tildsley. "Central's gym is a tough place to play and we've been awful over there. But that's not an excuse. Central played well and we had a poor shooting night."

"They hustled and got to most of the loose balls. We played hard but they deserved to win the game," said Tildsley.

After having 13 players score in the opening win over Lawrence, the Lady Warriors put only four players in the point column against Central.

"It's tough to win when only four players score," said Tildsley. "We have to get more people involved."

AHS Capt. Ashley McLaughlin did not skip a beat as she produced a near triple-double, leading all scorers with 31 points while also pulling down 11 rebounds and recording eight steals.

McLaughlin shot exactly 50 percent from the floor, hitting 12 of 24 field goal attempts.

Sophomore guard Emily Pallotta con-

tributed eight points, four rebounds and two assists, while perpetual-motion guard Jackie Powers added six points and Matia Kostakis four points, 10 rebounds.

Meagan Merinder collected six rebounds, Liz Pallotta had four steals and freshman guard Maggie Cosgrove four assists, two steals.

Kait Folinus led the balanced Central attack with 13 points, while Andrea Lozeau tossed in 10 points, Nicole Duchesne nine and Shelley Smyt nine.

The Raiders held a slim 18-17 edge in field goals, but at the free throw line Central hit 17 of 29 to just 10 of 17 for Andover.

GIRLS ICE HOCKEY

The season could not have started on a more upbeat note for the Andover High girls varsity hockey team, which battled past Metro North League foe Acton-Boxboro, 6-2, and then blitzed over-matched Gloucester, 9-0.

Schedule

In a scheduling quirk, AHS returns to action this Saturday with another game against Gloucester (1 p.m.) before the locals visit Billerica on New Year's Eve for a game at the Hallenborg Pavilion (10 a.m.).

Andover 6 Acton-Boxboro 2

Goals by junior Capt. Jacqui Munro and freshman Alison Burns in the first four minutes of the third period broke open a tight 2-1 game and catapulted the Lady Warriors to this win over A-B at Assabet Valley Arena in Concord.

These rivals met twice last year and skated to 2-2 and 1-1 ties.

"We played very well considering this

Continued on page 19

AHS PREVIEWS

Gymnasts aiming high

By Rick Harrison

The Townsman today continues previews of 2003-04 Andover High winter varsity sports teams with a look at girls gymnastics.

GIRLS GYMNASTICS

Like the Andover High girls swim and dive team, the AHS girls gymnastics squad has ruled the Merrimack Valley Conference and most of the rest of the state for quite awhile.

Although the gymnasts have claimed one state title to the swimmers five, they have been top three in Massachusetts several other times recently while also capturing three North Sectional championships, eight league crowns and 37 straight dual meets.

The Lady Warriors, who have not lost a dual meet since Feb. 4, 1999, are also 99-5 in their last 104 meets and 120-13 since 1989.

After going 12-0 during the regular 2002-03 season, winning the MVC title and Gloucester Invitational, Andover placed third in the North Sectionals and fourth in the All-State Meet.

The five graduates from 16th-year coach Julie Chapman's latest sensational squad were team Most Valuable Gymnast Sheri Bernstein (attending Syracuse University), Katie Cail (Williams College), Lisa Valera (Quinnipiac), Rachel Goldman (Johnson & Wales) and Heather Barry (Southern Colorado State).

Bernstein was third in the Conference Meet all-around competition last year (34.85), and she scored 34.325 at the North Sectionals and 34.725 at the All-State Team Meet.

In the State Individuals, Bernstein placed second in floor exercise (9.2) and fifth on balance beam (8.9).

Cail was Andover's top scorer in vault at the All-State Team Meet and finished top three (for the team) in floor and beam.

The leading returner is junior Libby Fortier who shared top billing with Bernstein last winter.

After placing first all-around in several dual meets, Fortier was fifth overall at the Conference Meet with a 33.95.

She also topped AHS in scoring at the North Sectionals with a 34.375, added a 34.15 at the All-State Team Meet and at the State Individuals finished seventh in the vaulting (8.7) and 10th on bars (8.7).

Fortier could well be the best gymnast in the MVC this season.

"We still have a ton of talent, plenty of depth and a group of new kids who are showing a lot of promise," said coach Chapman.

"Our trademark over the years has been consistency. We may not have as much of that this season as in the past, which means we'll have to work harder to get the big dual-meet scores."

"We've had a lot of girls that were 'automatic.' They were like machines. Every time they stepped on the mat we knew they would stick the routine and get the big score."

"Even though the skills are there again

this year — we may not have as many of those sure things. Time will tell."

That means coaches Chapman and fourth-year assistant Lindsey Rudolph (former AHS standout) will have to choose their lineups more carefully to insure solid dual-meet scores for a high seeding in the North Sectionals.

The 2003-04 Andover roster numbers 25 and includes four seniors, Capt. Andrea Krivelow (beam, vault), Capt. Jenn Mason (vault, floor), Capt. Laura Lamontagne (beam, floor) and Ashley Dias (beam, floor).

Krivelow earned the AHS Coaches Award last year.

Returning juniors are Fortier, Ann Marie Cashman (beam, vault, floor), Andrea Coiro (beam, vault, floor), Meghan Harrington (all-around), Aja Nicholson (beam, vault, floor), Lauren Reed (beam, vault) and Sheila Tayebi (vault, floor).

The only junior newcomer is Lisa Bernstein (vault, floor).

Sophomores back from last year are Siena Brooks (vault, floor), Katie Infantine (all-around), Sarah Coneyen (all-around), Donna Lamontagne (beam, vault, floor), Sonal Mehta (beam, floor), Jenn Pavelka (vault, floor) and Steph Theroux (vault, floor).

The six freshman prospects are Carly Verette (bars, vault, floor), Renee Coiro (all-around), Jackie Hung (beam, vault, floor), Sarah Igoe (vault, floor), Casey Jarchoe (bars, beam, floor) and Becky Robichaud (beam, vault, floor).

Harrington, Infantine, Cashman, Coneyen, Reed and Krivelow all competed in either the All-State Meet, North Sectionals or both last winter.

The Lady Warriors are once again prohibitive favorites to dominate the MVC, which includes Chelmsford, Billerica, Lowell, Dracut, Methuen, Tewksbury and first-year team Central Catholic.

Salem, N.H. High has been added to the schedule as a first-time non-league opponent (away, Jan. 12).

The season opens Saturday with Andover set to defend its Gloucester Invitational title against Beverly, Reading, Pope John of Everett, Bishop Fenwick of Peabody and Gloucester.

The meet starts at 2:15 p.m. and will be held at the Beverly 'Y.'

The MVC and dual-meet opener is Jan. 2 at Billerica, and the first home meet at the Dunn Gym is Jan. 7 against Lowell (both 7 p.m.).

The MIAA has switched from USA Gymnastics to Federation rules, which means some changes in scoring, awarding of bonus points and different requirements on routines.

Coaches and officials (scorers) have been attending clinics to learn the changes and pass them along to their athletes.

"A lot of people are wondering why the switch was made," said coach Chapman. "But at least we're all in the same boat. No one has the upper hand in this situation."

SPORTS TALK

By Rick Harrison

This column, compiled from information supplied by the colleges or by friends and relatives of the student-athletes, youth standouts and coaches involved, is published periodically in the Townsman. Information may be mailed to the office at 33 Chestnut St., Andover, 01810; or faxed to 978-470-2819.

Brittany Traynor of Andover, a senior defender on the Skidmore College Thoroughbreds women's soccer team, has been named a second-team Upstate (N.Y.) College Athletic Association (UCAA) All-Conference.

The UCAA is considered one of the top NCAA Division 3 women's soccer conferences in the country.

A four-year starter at Skidmore, which is located in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., Traynor is an exercise sci-

ence major who will graduate next May.

She was a mainstay on defense for the 1998 and 1999 Andover High girls varsity soccer teams that won Merrimack Valley Conference Division 1 championships.

Traynor scored six goals for the Lady Warriors her senior year, helping Andover to an undefeated regular season (19-0-1) and a 20-1-1 overall record. AHS reached the MIAA Division 1 North Tournament semifinals that fall before suffering its only loss to Newton North.

Former Andover High football standout Sean Smith, now a freshman defensive back on the Bentley College football team, returned an intercepted pass 79 yards for the final touchdown in a 59-0 Falcons' rout of host Pace University in their Northeast-10 Conference game played in New York.

It was Smith's first col-
Continued on page 20



Brittany Traynor



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ANDOVER HIGH SCHOOL WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULE

BOYS BASKETBALL

(Home Games at Dunn Gym)
December
 19 — Boston College High, 7:30 p.m. (non-league)
 22-29 — at Greater Lawrence Christmas Tournament
 22 — vs. Lawrence, 8 p.m., at North Andover Field House
January
 3 — at Brockton, 7:30 p.m. (non-league)
 6 — Billerica, 7:30 p.m.
 9 — Methuen, 7:30 p.m.
 11 — J.D. O'Bryant, 7 p.m. (non-league)
 13 — at Chelmsford, 7:30 p.m.
 16 — Lowell, 7:30 p.m.
 18 — Newton North, 7 p.m. (non-league)
 20 — at Tewksbury, 7:30 p.m.
 23 — at Haverhill, 7:30 p.m.
 25 — at Lawrence, 6:30 p.m.
 30 — at Central Catholic, 7:30 p.m.
February
 4 — at No. Cambridge Catholic, 7 p.m. (non-league)
 6 — at Methuen, 7:30 p.m.
 8 — Dracut, 3 p.m.
 10 — at Lowell, 7:30 p.m.
 13 — Haverhill, 7:30 p.m.
 18 — Central Catholic, 7:30 p.m.
Head Coach: Dave Fazio (15th year, 222-94)
JV Coach: Alan Hibino
Record Last Year: 18-5

GIRLS BASKETBALL

(Home Games at Dunn Gym)
December
 16 — Lawrence, 7:30 p.m.
 19 — at Central Catholic, 7:30 p.m.
 22 — at Dracut, 7:30 p.m.
 23 — Peabody, 7 p.m. (non-league)
 28/30 — Greater Lawrence Christmas Tournament, at North Andover Field House (opponents, times TBA)
January
 3 — LaSalle, R.I. Academy, 6:30 p.m. (non-league, raising of State Division 1 Championship Banner)
 7 — at Methuen, 5:30 p.m.
 9 — at Lowell, 7:30 p.m.
 13 — Chelmsford, 7:30 p.m.
 17 — vs. Minnechaug Regional, 3 p.m., at Springfield College (non-league)
 20 — Tewksbury, 7:30 p.m.
 23 — Haverhill, 7:30 p.m.
 30 — Central Catholic, 7:30 p.m.
February
 3 — at Billerica, 7:30 p.m.
 6 — Methuen, 7:30 p.m.
 10 — Lowell, 7:30 p.m.
 12 — at Haverhill, 7:30 p.m.
 14/22 — at Comcast Tournament
 14 — vs. Arlington Catholic, time TBA, at B.C. High
Head Coach: Jim Tildsley (9th year, 163-23)
JV Coach: Stephanie Ragucci
Record Last Year: 24-1, Greater Lawrence Christmas Tournament, AT&T Broadband Tournament, MVC, Division 1 North, EMass, Division 1 and State Division 1 champions.

BOYS ICE HOCKEY

(Home Games at MV Forum)
December
 20 — Methuen, 3 p.m.
 23 — Billerica, 8 p.m.
 27/29 — at Haverhill Tournament
 27 — vs. Winthrop, 4 p.m. (Veterans Rink)
January
 1 — at Westford Academy, 2 p.m.
 3 — at Haverhill, 6 p.m. (Veterans Rink)
 7 — at Dracut, 6 p.m. (Janas Rink, Lowell)
 10 — Boston Latin, 1 p.m.
 14 — Lincoln-Sudbury, 6:20 p.m.
 17 — at Tewksbury, 6 p.m. (Janas Rink, Lowell)
 21 — at Central Catholic, 7:10 p.m. (Salem, N.H. ICenter)
 24 — at Methuen, 6:50 p.m. (Methuen High)
 28 — Lowell, 6:20 p.m.
 31 — Haverhill, 3 p.m.
February
 4 — at Boston Latin, 6:30 p.m. (Matthews Arena)
 7 — at Lincoln-Sudbury, 8:10 p.m. (Assabet Valley Arena, Concord)
 11 — at Chelmsford, 7:20 p.m. (Chelmsford Forum)
 14 — Tewksbury, 3 p.m.
 16/19 — at Newburyport Bank Classic
 16 — vs. Wilmington, 2 p.m. (Graf Rink)
Head Coach: Bill Cullen (13th year, 117-97-33)
Assistant Coach: Bill Blackwell
JV Coach: Ralph Quaglietta
Volunteers: Mark Beliveau, Chris Cullen.
Record Last Year: 10-6-5.

GIRLS ICE HOCKEY

(Home Games at MV Forum)
December
 17 — at Acton-Boxboro, 4:30 p.m. (Nashoba Valley Olympia)
 20 — Gloucester, 1 p.m.
 27 — Gloucester, 1 p.m.
 31 — at Billerica, 10 a.m. (Hallenborg Pavilion)
January
 3 — at Westford Academy, noon (Tyngsboro Skate 3 Pavilion)
 7 — Lincoln-Sudbury, 8:20 p.m.
 10 — at Arlington, 7 p.m. (Veterans Memorial Rink)
 14 — Everett, 5 p.m.
 18 — at Boston Latin, 12:15 p.m. (Matthews Arena)
 19 — Acton-Boxboro, 1 p.m.
 21 — Arlington Catholic, 6 p.m.
 24 — at Quincy/North Quincy, 6:40 p.m.
 28 — Duxbury, 5 p.m.
 31 — Westford Academy, 1 p.m.
February
 4 — at Lincoln-Sudbury, 3:15 p.m. (Assabet Valley Arena, Concord)
 7 — Arlington, 1 p.m.
 11 — at Everett, 3:30 p.m. (MDC Rink)
 14 — Boston Latin, 1 p.m.
 16 — at Duxbury, 3 p.m. (Pilgrim Arena)
 18 — at Billerica, 5 p.m. (Hallenborg Pavilion)
Head Coach: Bill McCarthy (3rd year, 21-9-4).
Assistant Coach: Kristi Keller, Phil Ternullo (goalenders).
Record Last Year: 9-8-4, quality MIAA Tournament.

GIRLS GYMNASTICS

(Home Meets at Dunn Gym)
December
 27 — at Gloucester Invitational, 2:15 p.m. (Beverly Y)
January
 2 — at Billerica, 7 p.m. (James Gym)
 7 — Lowell, 7 p.m.
 12 — at Salem, N.H., 6 p.m. (non-league)
 15 — at Dracut, 7 p.m.
 22 — Methuen, 7 p.m.
 26 — Central Catholic, 7 p.m.
 29 — at Chelmsford, 7 p.m. (Conrad Gym)
February
 4 — Tewksbury, 7 p.m.
 7 — at MVC Championship Meet, 7 p.m.
 TBA — North Sectional and All-State Meets
Head Coach: Julie Chapman (16th year, 120-13).
Assistant Coach: Lindsay Rudolph.
Record Last Year: 12-0, MVC champs; 3rd at North Sectionals; 4th at All-State Meet.

BOYS GYMNASTICS

(Home Meets at Dunn Gym)
January
 6 — Revere, 6 p.m.
 8 — at Burlington, 7 p.m.
 17 — at Salem, N.H. Invitational, 10 a.m.
 20 — at Attleboro, 6 p.m.
 21 — Braintree, 6 p.m.
 27 — at Newton North, 5 p.m.
 28 — Salem, N.H., 6 p.m. (non-league)
February
 2 — Lowell & Newton South, 6 p.m.
 9 — State Coaches Individual Meet, time & site TBA
 12 — All-State Team Meet, time & site TBA
Head Coach: Jack Gleason (39th year).
Assistant Coach: Steve Sirois.
Record Last Year: 2-7.

BOYS SWIM & DIVE

(Home Meets at Gr. Lawrence Vo-Tech)
December
 19 — at Lowell, 3:30 p.m. (Lowell High)
 23 — at Central Catholic, 3:30 p.m. (Lowell High)
January
 6 — Chelmsford, 3:30 p.m.
 9 — at Nashua, N.H., 3:30 p.m.
 13 — Haverhill, 3:30 p.m.
 16 — Lowell, 3:30 p.m.
 23 — at Chelmsford, 3:30 p.m. (Lowell YMCA)
 27 — Central Catholic, 3:30 p.m.
 30 — Nashua, N.H., 3:30 p.m.
February
 3 — at Haverhill, 3:30 p.m.
 5 — at Xaverian, 4 p.m. (non-league)
 13 — MVC Championship Meet, 4 p.m. (White Natatorium, Haverhill)
 21 — North Sectionals, 9:30 a.m. (White Natatorium, Haverhill)
 27-28 — State Championship Meet, time & site TBA
Head Coach: Mark Taffe (6th year, 30-22).
Assistant Coach: Adam Moskal.
Record Last Year: 8-2, MVC runner-up; 5th at North Sectionals.

BOYS INDOOR TRACK

(Home Meets at AHS Field House)
December
 17 — Lawrence, 3:30 p.m.
 20 — MSTCA Winter Carnival, 9:30 a.m. (Lewis Center)
 23 — at Lowell, 3:30 p.m. (Lowell Field House)
 29 — at Methuen, 10 a.m. (Methuen Field House)
January
 3 — Freshman/Sophomore Meet, 10 a.m.
 7 — Dracut, 3:30 p.m.
 10 — at Dartmouth Relays, 10 a.m.
 14 — Haverhill, 3:30 p.m.
 18 — at State Class A Relays, time TBA (Lewis Center)
 21 — Chelmsford, 3:30 p.m.
 24 — at Phillips Academy, 2 p.m.
 25 — at McIntyre Relays, 10 a.m. (Lewis Center)
 28 — Central Catholic, 3:30 p.m.
February
 1 — Boys State Coaches Meet, 10 a.m. (Lewis Center)
 7 — MVC Boys Championship Meet, 9:30 a.m.
 15 — EMass, Class A Meet, 9:30 a.m. (Lewis Center)
 21 — at All-State Meet, 10 a.m. (Lewis Center)
 24 — at Boys Pentathlon, time TBA (Lewis Center)
 27 — at New England Championship Meet, time TBA (Lewis Center)
Head Coach: Peter Comeau (1st year).
Assistant Coaches: Art Iworsley, Greg Kouloheras, Brenda Clark-Warne.
Record Last Year: 4-5.

GIRLS INDOOR TRACK

(Home Meets at AHS Field House)
December
 17 — Lawrence, 3:30 p.m.
 20 — MSTCA Winter Carnival, 9:30 a.m. (Lewis Center)
 23 — at Lowell, 3:30 p.m. (Lowell Field House)
 29 — at Methuen, 10 a.m. (Methuen Field House)
January
 3 — Freshman/Sophomore Meet, 10 a.m.
 10 — at Dartmouth Relays, 10 a.m.
 14 — Haverhill, 3:30 p.m.
 18 — at State Class A Relays, time TBA (Lewis Center)
 21 — Chelmsford, 3:30 p.m.
 24 — at Phillips Academy, 2 p.m.
 25 — at McIntyre Relays, 10 a.m. (Lewis Center)
 28 — Central Catholic, 3:30 p.m.
 31 — Girls State Coaches Meet, 10 a.m. (Lewis Center)
February
 6 — MVC Girls Championship Meet, 3:30 p.m.
 15 — EMass, Class A Meet, 9:30 a.m. (Lewis Center)
 21 — at All-State Meet, 10 a.m. (Lewis Center)
 25 — at Girls Pentathlon, time TBA (Lewis Center)
 27 — at New England Championship Meet, time TBA (Lewis Center)
Head Coach: Peter Comeau (1st year).
Assistant Coaches: Art Iworsley, Greg Kouloheras, Brenda Clark-Warne.
Record Last Year: 8-2.

GIRLS SKI

(All Meets at Bradford Hill)
January
 9 — Methuen & North Andover, 3:30 p.m.
 12 — Haverhill & Bishop Fenwick, 3:30 p.m.
 14 — Masconomet, 3:30 p.m.
 23 — Methuen & North Andover, 3:30 p.m.
 28 — Haverhill & Bishop Fenwick, 3:30 p.m.
February
 2 — Masconomet, 3:30 p.m.
 10 — Interscholastics, 3:30 p.m.
 25 — All-State Meet, 10 a.m., at Wachusett Mountain
Head Coach: Tom Busta (5th year).
Assistant Coach: Lisa Tylus.
Record Last Year: 10-0, North Shore League champs; 6th at All-State Meet.

BOYS SKI

(All Meets at Bradford Hill)
January
 8 — Haverhill & Bishop Fenwick, 3:30 p.m.
 13 — Masconomet & St. John's Prep, 3:30 p.m.
 15 — Methuen & Austin Prep, 3:30 p.m.
 26 — North Andover, 3:30 p.m.
 27 — Haverhill & Bishop Fenwick, 3:30 p.m.
 29 — Masconomet & St. John's Prep, 3:30 p.m.
February
 3 — Methuen & Austin Prep, 3:30 p.m.
 4 — North Andover, 3:30 p.m.
 10 — Interscholastics, 3:30 p.m.
 25 — All-State Meet, 10 a.m., at Wachusett Mountain
Head Coach: Tom Busta (5th year).
Assistant Coach: Lisa Tylus.
Record Last Year: 10-4.

FRESHMAN GIRLS BASKETBALL

December
 16 — Lawrence, 3:30 p.m.
 19 — at Central Catholic, 3:30 p.m.
 22 — at Dracut, 3:30 p.m.
January
 9 — at Methuen, 3:30 p.m.
 13 — Chelmsford, 3:30 p.m.
 16 — at Lowell, 3:30 p.m.
 20 — Tewksbury, 3:30 p.m.
 23 — Haverhill, 3:30 p.m.
 30 — Central Catholic, 3:30 p.m.
February
 3 — at Billerica, 3:30 p.m.
 6 — Methuen, 3:30 p.m.
 10 — Lowell, 3:30 p.m.
 13 — at Haverhill, 3:30 p.m.
Coach: Sue Rogers.

FRESHMAN BOYS BASKETBALL

December
 16 — Lawrence, 4:45 p.m.
 19 — at Central Catholic, 4:45 p.m.
 22 — at Dracut, 4:45 p.m.
January
 9 — at Methuen, 4 p.m.
 13 — Chelmsford, 4:45 p.m.
 16 — at Lowell, 4:45 p.m.
 20 — Tewksbury, 4:45 p.m.
 23 — Haverhill, 4:45 p.m.
 28 — at Phillips Academy, 3:30 p.m.
 30 — Central Catholic, 4:45 p.m.
February
 3 — at Billerica, 4:45 p.m.
 6 — Methuen, 4:45 p.m.
 10 — Lowell, 4:45 p.m.
 13 — at Haverhill, 4:45 p.m.
Coach: Alan Hibino.

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AHS ROUNDUP

GIRLS ICE HOCKEY

Continued from page 17

was the first game," said AHS coach Bill McCarthy. "Our four freshmen skaters were poised and (goalie) Dolly Beechinor (27 saves) made a couple of early saves that turned the momentum around in our favor."

Freshman forward Becky Cairns gave the locals a 1-0 lead by scoring just 4:06 into her varsity debut, the assists to Munro and Capt. Adrienne Shea.

Acton-Boxboro's Erica Christensen tied it a mere 25 seconds later (4:31) with the first of her two goals.

"Beechinor made two big stops in the opening period," said McCarthy. "If Acton had scored on one or both of those shots we would have been back on our heels."

Instead the rivals entered the second period in a 1-1 tie, and sophomore forward Maria Nasta (team co-MVP last year) put the Lady Warriors ahead to stay at 6:42.

"It was the prettiest goal of the night," said McCarthy. "Ashley Malins (assist) brought the puck out of the corner and circled behind the net. She threw a pass out to Maria who one-timed a shot into an open corner."

The goals by Munro and Burns came just 62 seconds apart in the final stanza, at 2:47 and 3:49, to give the locals a commanding 4-1 lead.

Shea and Cairns set up the Munro tally, while Malins assisted on the Burns marker.

After Christensen netted her second of the game for A-B at 6:46, unassisted AHS goals by sophomores Liz Roda (8:10) and Nasta (31 seconds left) capped the offense.

Beechinor finished with 27 saves as the Colonials held a wafer-thin 29-28 shooting edge.

In addition to Cairns and Burns, coach McCarthy lauded the play of fresh defencemen Becky Johnson and Samantha Monson.

Andover 9
Gloucester 0

The Lady Warriors scored twice in the first 48 seconds, led 4-0 before the game was two minutes old and had a 6-0 cushion just 5:29 into the home opener at the Merrimack Valley Forum.

"The first two lines sat down for most of the game after the fast start," said coach McCarthy. "Gloucester is going through some tough times and it may take awhile for them to rebuild."

These teams met once before two years ago with AHS pulling out a 1-0 win.

For the second straight game, freshman Becky Cairns opened the scoring with an unassisted goal 42 seconds after the faceoff.

Six seconds later Cairns set up a goal by Adrienne Shea, and before the six-minute mark Maria Nasta scored twice and single tallies were netted by Ashley Malins and Kris-

ten Costagliola.

Sam Weinburg made it 7-0 at 3:19 of the middle period, and the final two goals were pocketed 15 seconds apart midway through the third stanza by Malins (7:07) and junior forward Kim Chandler (7:22).

Liz Roda, Allison Abreu and Weinburg had two assists each while solo setups were contributed by Malins, Costagliola and Alison Burns.

Goaltenders Dolly Beechinor (two periods) and freshman Christina Cahill, who made her varsity debut in the third session, combined for the shutout.

BOYS HOCKEY

Sophomore Matt Colby netted a power play goal midway through the second period to snap a scoreless tie, and sophomore linemate Mike Lamagna added the insurance goal in the third period, as the Andover High boys varsity hockey team whitewashed Methuen, 2-0, in its opener at the Merrimack Valley Forum.

The Golden Warriors outshot Methuen by a wide 42-7 margin in the Merrimack Valley/Dual County League tug-of-war, but a solid performance by Rangers' goalie Mark Mazdriez kept it competitive.

Schedule

AHS returned to the ice Tuesday night, after *Townsmen* presstime, when it hosted Division I power Billerica (1-0) at the Forum.

Next up is the annual Haverhill Christmas Tournament this Saturday and Monday, with the Golden Warriors facing Winthrop at Veterans Memorial Rink in Haverhill on Saturday at 4 p.m.

Andover 2
Methuen 0

Matt Colby's game-winning goal at 8:13 of the middle period came when he took a snap pass from Mike Lamagna in the slot, and wristed a shot on the ice that found the Methuen net just inside the left post.

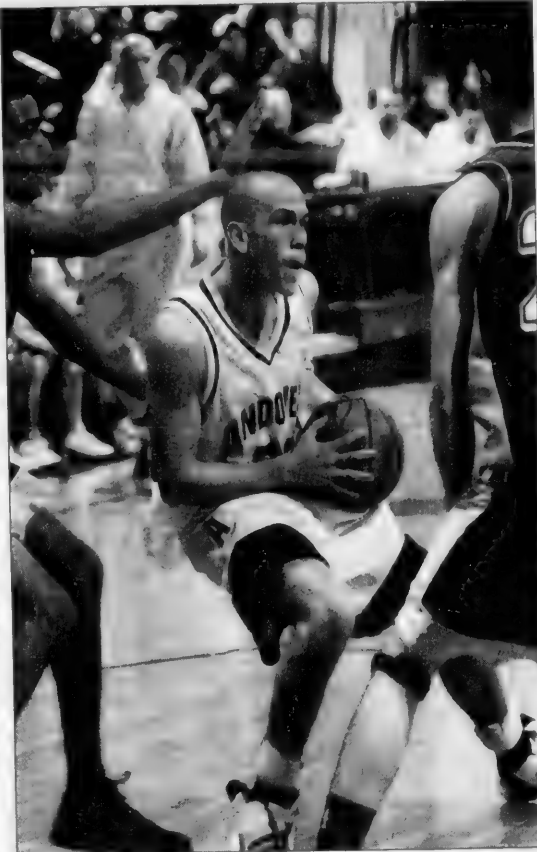
Lamagna added the insurance at 7:01 of the final stanza, banging home the rebound of a blast from the point by sophomore defenseman Greg Carroll.

Capt. Brian Buckley had a goal disallowed in the third period because an Andover player was in the crease.

"It's always good to win the first game," said AHS coach Bill Cullen. "Their goalie was outstanding but we fought our way through it."

"We skated four lines and this was a complete team victory."

Junior netminder Craig Espinola recorded the seven-save shutout for the Golden Warriors.



Jack Barrett looks to pass around the defense of B.C. High.

BOYS SWIM
& DIVE

Sophomore Rob Medaglio won two events, and the Andover High boys swim/dive team placed first in all three relays and swept the one-meter diving on the way to a solid 96-69 romp over host Lowell in the Merrimack Valley Conference dual-meet opener for both schools at the Riddick Field House pool.

Schedule

AHS returned to the water Tuesday afternoon, after the early *Townsmen* deadline, when it faced Central Catholic back at the Lowell High pool.

The Golden Warriors are now off until Jan. 6 when they battle multi-time MVC and reigning state champ Chelmsford in the home opener at the Greater Lawrence Vot-Tech pool (3:30 p.m.).

Andover 96
Lowell 69

Rob Medaglio was tops in the 200 free (2:04.56) and the 100 butterfly (1:05.64), while Joe Reynolds contributed a first in the 100 backstroke (1:06.41) and second in the

200 free (2:16.14).

Medaglio also joined Zac Broomfield, Dave Baletsa and Capt. Nick Saunders on the victorious 200 free relay (1:44.38), while Reynolds, Saunders, Jon Meltz and Broomfield were tops in the 400 free relay (3:51.46).

Starting off the relay sweep was the 200 medley quartet of Meltz, Justin Samuels, freshman Oliver Scarborough and anchorman Chris Mullen (1:56.87).

Achieving the sweep in diving were sophomore winner Joe Savoca (155.35 points), runner-up Brian O'Connor and Javier Verdager.

"Overall it was a good, steady first meet," said coach Mark Taffe. "Some of the new guys made mistakes but that's normal at this stage."

Other AHS winners were sprint freestyler Ben Carter in the 50 free (26.83) and Samuels in the 100 breaststroke (1:13.93).

Joining Reynolds and O'Connor as individual runners-up were Samuels (200 IM, 2:18.99), Baletsa (50 free, 27.31), Scarborough (100 fly, 1:10.52), Meltz (500 free, 5:36.93) and Mullen (100 back, 1:09.87).

Second-place relays were the 200 free crew of Tom Avila, Capt. Sean Geary, freshman Dave Espindle, Jonathan Taylor (1:54.22) and the 400 free foursome of Mullen, Geary, Mike Stewart and Medaglio (3:54.12).

Third in the 200 medley relay was the team of Baletsa, Reynolds, Espindle and Stewart (2:13.34).

Completing other AHS event sweeps with third-place finishes were Broomfield (200 free, 2:17.97), Avila (100 fly, 1:12.78) and Paul D'Ambrosio (100 back, 1:11.06).

Scarborough was third in the 200 IM (2:34.47), Carter third in the 100 free (1:01.08) and Stewart third in the 500 free.

Baletsa was fourth (1:04.16) and sophomore Felipe Machado fifth (1:05.05) in the 100 free, while Espindle contributed a fourth (1:27.54) and Capt. Steve Fang fifth (1:28.77) in the 100 breast.

INDOOR TRACK

The Andover High girls and boys track teams toyed with visiting Lawrence in their Merrimack Valley Conference season-opening crossover dual meets at the AHS Field House, the Lady Warriors rolling to an 83-3 victory and the boys cruising to a 71-15 triumph.

Schedule

The competition figured to be considerably tougher this past Tuesday, after the early *Townsmen* deadline, as both Andover teams returned to the oval to face MVC rival Lowell at the Red Raiders' Riddick Field House.

Andover girls 83
Lawrence 3

In overpowering the Lancers and nearly shutting them out, the Lady Warriors swept nine of the 10 events and took every place except second in the shot put.

The locals boasted nine different individual winners and two girls (Capt. Allison Kerivan and freshman Rachel Fox) who scored in two events.

Kerivan finished second in the high jump (4'10") and third in the 50 hurdles (8.0), while Fox was third in the 300 dash (43.9) and joined Kelly McGowan and sophomore twins Amy and Sara Boxell on the victorious 4x400 relay.

Brittany Pierce was first in the hurdles (7.7) and Meaghan Keefe second (8.0).

Sweeping the 50 dash were Jenny Dlesk (6.4), Jen Hagopian (6.7) and Caroline Pierce (6.7).

Amanda Carlson won the 300 dash in 41.6 and Kate Nichols was second (42.6) ahead of Fox.

Emily Korba paced the sweep of the 600 run (1:44.0), while Lisa

DiTroia was second (1:47.9) and German transfer Julia Schoenau third (1:49.4).

Michelle Piro was a convincing victor in the 1000 run, her 3:07.6 a full 11 seconds faster than Melissa Foley (3:18.7). Freshman Christina Conley impressed with a third place in 3:23.7.

Sophomore Courtney Hamer was in mid-season form with a first-place 5:57.1 clocking in the mile; Leslie Willey (6:15.2) and Sara Barnettler (6:39.7) completed the sweep.

Tops in the two-mile was Jazzy Dingler, whose 13:03.7 placed her ahead of runner-up Christy Nigh (13:41.6) and Alice Yuan (14:12.8).

Corrine Welsh and Kerivan both cleared 4'10" in the high jump, while Melissa Parry was third at 4'8".

Felicia Thompson's 31-foot toss won the shot put and sophomore Alyssa Lau was third with a top throw of 26'10".

Andover boys 71
Lawrence 15

The Golden Warriors placed first in nine of the 10 events, and dominated the distance races with sweeps of the 1000, mile and two-mile, as they crushed the Lancers.

Individual AHS winners were hurdler Vin Errico (6.6), Bruce Hillman (300 dash, 35.7), Matt Malloy (600 run, 1:24.4), Jeff Sawyer (1000 run, 2:30.0), miler Brad Sherman (5:05.7), two-miler Ryan Durkin (10:28.2), high jumper Mark Radlinski (5'5") and shot putter Mike Gustin (42'6").

Jimmy Muller (2:34.7) and sophomore Mike Baldwin (2:47.3) completed the sweep of the 1000.

Sasha Seletsky (5:16.1) and sophomore Alex McCargar (5:18.3) were 2-3 in the mile, and following ace Durkin in the duce were James Primes (10:53.1) and sophomore Peter Brown (11:15.3).

Also second were hurdler Chris Cole (6.9), sprinter Ryan Donahue in the 50 dash (5.7), Garrett Rayner (600 run, 1:24.7) and high jumper Matt Hill (5'3").

Junior Andy Boudreau placed third in the 300 dash (38.7) and junior Kyle MacKenzie third in the shot (37'4").

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benefit AHS
hoop teams

The Andover High girls and boys basketball teams are selling "Super Fan T-Shirts" with all proceeds to benefit the two programs.

The attractive shirts, at a cost of \$10 each, will be available at early-season games and at Andover Church Basketball League games played each Saturday afternoon at the AHS Field House.

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SPORTS TALK

SEAN SMITH

Continued from page 17

Bentley, ranked 19th in NCAA Division 2 and No. 2 in the Northeast Region, finished the regular season 10-0 overall including 9-0 in the conference on the way to its first NE-10 championship.

The Falcons overpowered every opponent this fall, scoring a low of 52 points and a high of 62 to chalk up the perfect record and qualify for the 2003 NCAA Division 2 Championship playoffs.

This is the first time since 1994, and the fourth time in the history of the program, that Bentley went undefeated in regular season play.

Smith played at Andover High and, after graduation, spent last year prepping (and playing) at New Hampton.

He earned New England Prep Private School All-Scholastic honors last fall after helping New Hampton to a perfect 8-0 season and the Class B championship.

A team captain, Smith finished with 84 tackles, four sacks, three interceptions and three fumble recoveries on defense.

He also had six touchdowns and 428 yards rushing as a member of

the offensive backfield

Colleen Bateson of Andover capped an outstanding collegiate field hockey career by being selected as the Massachusetts State College Athletic Conference Player of the Year for the 2003 fall season.

Bateson, who played four years of varsity field hockey at Andover High, started all 17 games for Bridgewater State her senior season and as a defensive specialist was instrumental in bringing the Bears' another conference championship.

The BSC team captain was on two MASCAC title winners and a pair of playoff qualifiers.

Bateson, studying communications and psychology, will graduate in May and plans to attend grad school to pursue a master's degree in speech pathology, which deals with therapy for patients suffering from a brain injury or stroke.

Abby Dennehy of Andover, a junior forward on the UMass Lowell field hockey team, registered her first goal of the season in the closing minutes of a 5-0 Northeast-10 Conference romp over Franklin Pierce.

Chris Brouillard of Andover, a sophomore forward on the Bentley College men's soccer team this past fall, netted his first goal of the season with less than three minutes to play in a 6-0 rout of the College of Saint Rose.

The athletically-gifted **Brown** siblings of Andover are all doing well in college.

Despite a shoulder injury that required a cortisone shot, sophomore **Bruce** played football as a wide receiver at West Point.

Connie is a freshman swimming for the University of Texas squad, and Bruce's twin sister Sally has transferred from Auburn to Arizona State where she will be competing as a sophomore for the swim and dive team as soon as her eligibility kicks in.

Robert Weinberg of Andover was a wide receiver and punter for the Framingham State College varsity football team this fall.

Krit Kearins of Andover is back on the Plymouth, N.H. State University women's swim and dive team, hoping to defend her New England one-meter diving title garnered last year.

Kearins, a senior at PSU, was a top diver at Andover High and a member of the Lady Warriors' first state championship team.

The Lady Panthers opened the

season by splitting a double-dual meet against Norwich University (91-38 win) and Wellesley College (80-57 loss).

Kearins swept first place in both one-meter diving events, winning the voluntary round with a score of 147.55 points and the optional round with 173.75 points.

In a subsequent 150-117 dual meet win over host Regis College in Weston, Kearins had another terrific day when she captured both the one-meter voluntary and optional diving.

Her score of 179.60 in the voluntary round broke the school record of 174.45 set by Kathleen Boyd in 1998, while her 190.20 in the optional just missed Boyd's 1998 mark of 190.65.

Timothy Kearney of Andover is a member of the Hamilton College men's swim and dive team this winter.

The Hamilton freshman is a graduate of St. John's Prep in Danvers.

Daniel Cote of Andover was a sophomore forward on the Trinity College (Hartford, Conn.) men's soccer team which finished the 2003 fall season at 3-8-2.

Lisa Tisbert of Andover, a junior forward on the Bentley College women's soccer team, was recently named a first-team All New England Women's Intercollegiate Soccer Association Division 2 All-Star.

Tisbert is the all-time Falcons' career leader in goals (34) and total points (88), and she also holds the school record for goals in a season (12).

Christiana Kuipers of Andover is a sophomore member of the Wheaton College women's swim and dive team.

Kuipers competes in the butterfly, backstroke and freestyle events for the Lady Lyons, who placed seventh at last year's New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) Championship Meet.

Tom Cahill and **Tim Hughes** of Andover were recently among those honored at the annual fall athletic awards assembly at Middlesex School in Concord.

Both were standouts on the football field. Hughes earning first-team All-League laurels while Cahill was named All-League honorable mention.

The two juniors helped the Middlesex varsity gridders to a perfect 8-0 record, and a share of the Inde-

ALL THOSE YEARS AGO

25 YEARS AGO - 1978

Continued from page 15

Clark said this week that there are too many financial burdens placed on municipalities by the state and federal governments, which makes reducing local taxes difficult for cities and towns, and "Massachusetts cities and towns would be far better off to make their own decisions on a rollback in municipal taxes. We would lower or increase our own expenditures over which to have direct control, and the federal and state governments and courts give mandates for spending which the town cannot control.

After 27 years of service, Ethel Wilson, head of circulation at Memorial Hall Library, recently retired.

The Andover-North Andover YMCA will start the Winter Term Ice Skating program the week of Jan. 2. Classes will be held at the Phillips Academy rink.

The Statewide Health Coordinating Council will hold a public hearing Thursday, Jan. 4, concerning its draft, Massachusetts State Health Plan. Once adopted, the plan will serve as a guide for decision making at the local, regional and state levels. Community participation in health-care decision making is encouraged.

The Sanborn Associates will hold another of their successful speedreading courses at Memorial Hall Library beginning Jan. 22 at 7 p.m. Most participants will double or triple their reading rate.

10 Years Ago - 1993

David Charland, chairman of the recently formed Youth Council, is a dreamer. He'd like every student in Andover to get along, to be free of drugs, and for there to be a center devoted purely to the needs of Andover youth.

Pike School will make a donation to the Toys for Tots program for the 15th consecutive holiday season.

The American Field Service (AFS) recently held its annual International Banquet. A smorgasbord of foreign and New

England foods was served by the local chapters of AFS.

Thirty Andover fourth- and fifth-grade students and 35 research scientists gathered in the South School cafeteria Wednesday evening, Dec. 8, with parents, siblings and teachers to celebrate the accomplishments of a ground-breaking collaboration between the Andover schools and Genetics Institute.

Andover High launched its indoor track season by sweeping past North Reading in Merrimack Valley Conference dual meets at the Methuen High Field House this week, both the boy's and the girl's teams winning by identical 56-29 scores.

With no returning starters and just one senior on the 13-player varsity roster, Andover High girl's basketball coach George Sullivan should have asked the athletic department to hire a major construction firm to help with the rebuilding job.

The Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals reminds pet owners that a safe holiday is a happy holiday for four-legged friends. Keep pets away from holiday trimmings. Festive tinsel, lights and ornaments can cause internal injuries if swallowed.

School Committee member Dick Muller used a joint meeting of town officials Monday

night to make a pitch for shifting the \$2.4 million bill for last year's emergency school repairs from the school side of the budget to the general fund.

The School Committee Tuesday night turned its attention to the gymnasium at Andover High School. Jim Marsh, head of the School Building Committee, and architect David Soleau presented two options regarding renovations to the High School gymnasium.

Selectmen Monday night approved the appointment of a full-time youth services coordinator. William Fahey, 31, of Reading will begin his position as youth services coordinator Jan. 17.

The restoration of Elm Green will celebrate in "all who serve," said Richard Brown, chairman of the town Patriotic Holiday Committee.

School councils are in place and each individual council has begun its work to finalize a needs-assessment form and to create a School Improvement Plan for its school.

The Park Street Pub, described by its owner as an "upscale sports bar," will open this Monday, Dec. 27, at 4 p.m. in the spot formerly occupied by the Andover Grill at 40 Park St.

- Compiled by Townsman intern Jaclyn Todisco

DCS Baseball Clinic features Golden Warriors

The Department of Community Services is conducting a pre-season Baseball Clinic on Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25 and Feb. 1, 8 and 22 at the Andover High Field House.

AHS varsity baseball coach Ken Maglio is the director and his staff will consist of past and present Golden Warrior players.

The clinic is for youngsters ages eight and older. Sessions for those age 12 and under will go from 9-10:30 a.m. and those age 13 and up from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Fundamentals of pitching, batting, fielding, bunting and throwing will be stressed. Players will be grouped according to age and ability.

The clinic is designed to enhance each player's skills applicable to every position on the field. Athletes may select skill stations of their choice.

Plyometrics will be offered to increase speed, agility and flexibility.

Cost of the clinic is \$60. For more information call Kim Stamias at 978-623-8276.

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Mootone staff standing next to the Sushi Bar.

Now serving Andover fine Japanese cuisine in classic style and setting, is Mootone restaurant. Owner Yizhong Ying boasts an impressive staff of chefs each with five or more years of experience in both domestic markets including New York City, Japan and Russia.

Mootone's impressive traditional Japanese atmosphere offers its customers three sections in which to dine and stresses a clean environment. "Andover's a nice town," says Ying, "with sushi, it's important to have a nice clean atmosphere, because some people still have a psychological barrier with raw Japanese food." Although some people may think otherwise, Mootone does not only serve raw food, in fact, over half the menu is cooked. "We usually get our new customers to try cooked food first. Once they have a better understanding of Japanese food, we encourage them to try other things."

Mootone's menu is split

into three difference sections. First is sushi, which is itself split into two categories: cooked and raw. There are also vegetarian items with fruit and vegetables: "we have more types of fruit and vegetables than other restaurants," says Ying. The second group is the Teppanyaki table, where the chef cooks on a grill in front of the customer. "He has a little show prior during and after the meal," says Ying. "It's a little entertainment." The third section is a traditional restaurant dining area for items like teriyaki, beef, chicken, and salmon. Customers can, however, order any item from any area of the restaurant.

Mootone restaurant offers dine in, take out and delivery; located on 15 Railroad St., open for business Monday through Thursday 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., and Sunday noon to 9:30 p.m. Phone number 978-623-8006.

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LEGAL NOTICES

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF HEARING

A public hearing will be held at THE HALL, SECOND FLOOR in MEMORIAL HALL LIBRARY, ELM SQUARE, ANDOVER on THURSDAY, January 8, 2004 at 7:00 P.M. on the petition of Hanley Realty Trust, 384 Lowell St., Andover, MA for a special permit under Article VIII, § 3.3.5 to convert an existing non-conforming screen porch into a sun room for year-round use that does not meet dimensional requirements.

Premises affected are located at 384 Lowell St., Andover, MA in a SRC District as shown on Assessor's Map 196 as Lot 10. DANIEL S. CASPER, ESQ., Chairman, BOARD OF APPEALS, December 25, 2003 & January 1, 2004

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF HEARING

A public hearing will be held at THE HALL, SECOND FLOOR in MEMORIAL HALL LIBRARY, ELM SQUARE, ANDOVER on THURSDAY, January 8, 2004 at 7:00 P.M. on the petition of Michael B. Arthur, 5 Baker Ln., Andover, MA for a variance from the requirements of Article VIII, § 4.1.2 & for a special permit under Article VIII, § 3.3.5 to construct a addition that will not meet dimensional requirements.

Premises affected are located at 5 Baker Lane, Andover,

MA in a GB District as shown on Assessor's Map 54 as Lot 56. DANIEL S. CASPER, ESQ., Chairman, BOARD OF APPEALS, December 25, 2003 & January 1, 2004

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF HEARING

A public hearing will be held at THE HALL, SECOND FLOOR in MEMORIAL HALL LIBRARY, ELM SQUARE, ANDOVER on THURSDAY, January 8, 2004 at 7:00 P.M. on the petition of Marc & Adria Ganek, 7 Zamboni Terr., Andover, MA for a variance from Article VIII, § 4.1.2 & 4.2.2 and as Parties Aggrieved for review of a decision made by the Building Inspector, to construct a detached garage that will not meet dimensional requirements.

Premises affected are located at 7 Zamboni Terr., Andover, MA in a SRC District as shown on Assessor's Map 217 as Lot 7C. DANIEL S. CASPER, ESQ., Chairman, BOARD OF APPEALS, December 25, 2003 & January 1, 2004

TOWN OF ANDOVER PLANNING BOARD

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be convened on Tuesday, January 13, 2004, at 8:30 p.m., in the Third Floor Conference Room, Town Office Building, Bartlett Street, pursuant to the provisions of MGL, Chapter 41A, Section 81W, for the purpose of determining if a 14-Lot defini-

tion subdivision plan entitled CRYSTAL CIRCLE owned by House of Atrous Realty Trust, originally approved by the Board on August 11, 1992, should be modified, amended or rescinded, or whether to require a change in the plan as a condition of its retaining the status of an approved plan, said subdivision located off Blanchard Street at the Andover / Tewksbury line, and all lots therein being more specifically identified in Andover as Lots 4, 4F, 4G, 4H, 4J, 4K, 4L, 4M, 4N, and 4P on Assessor's Map 200, and including five lots and a portion of the subdivision street situated in the Town of Tewksbury. The plans and associated documents may be viewed in the Planning Department between the hours of 8:00 a.m., and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

ANDOVER PLANNING BOARD
Paul Salafia, Chairman
December 18 & 25 2003

Commonwealth Of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate And Family Court Department ESSEX Division Docket No.

03P2723EP1
In the Estate of JANET G. HIGGINS AKA JANET HIGGINS

Late of ANDOVER in the County of ESSEX
Date of Death September 17, 2003
NOTICE OF PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, a petition has been presented praying that the last will of said decedent be proved and allowed, and that JAMES L. HIGGINS of ANDOVER in the County of ESSEX be appointed executor, named in the will to serve without surety. IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT SALEM, ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE FORENOON (10:00 AM) ON JANUARY 20, 2004.

In addition you must file a written affidavit of objections to the petition, stating the specific facts and grounds upon which the objection is based, within thirty (30) days after the return day (or such other time as the court, on motion with notice to the petitioner, may allow) in accordance with Probate Rule 16. WITNESS, HON. JOHN C. STEVENS, III ESQUIRE, First Justice of said Court at SALEM this day, December 16, 2003. Pamela Casey O'Brien, Register of Probate Court, December 25, 2003

Commonwealth Of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate And Family Court Department ESSEX Division Docket No.

03P2655EP1

In the Estate of PENN H. CLOWER Late of ANDOVER in the County of ESSEX
Date of Death October 3, 2003
NOTICE OF PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, a petition has been presented praying that the last will of said decedent be proved and allowed, and that LINDA A. CLOWER of ANDOVER in the County of ESSEX be appointed executrix, named in the will to serve without surety. IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT SALEM, ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE FORENOON (10:00 AM) ON JANUARY 5, 2004.

In addition you must file a written affidavit of objections to the petition, stating the specific facts and grounds upon which the objection is based, within thirty (30) days after the return day (or such other time as the court, on motion with notice to the petitioner, may allow) in accordance with Probate Rule 16. WITNESS, HON. JOHN C. STEVENS, III ESQUIRE, First Justice of said Court at SALEM this day, December 4, 2003. Pamela Casey O'Brien, Register of Probate Court, December 25, 2003

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF HEARING

A public hearing will be held at THE HALL, SECOND FLOOR in MEMORIAL HALL LIBRARY, ELM SQUARE, ANDOVER on THURSDAY, January 8, 2004 at 7:00 P.M. on the petition of James F. Pinho, c/o Vendor Alliance Capital, Ste. 109, 790 Turnpike St., N. Andover, MA & Rita Lundstrom,

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF HEARING

A public hearing will be held at THE HALL, SECOND FLOOR in MEMORIAL HALL LIBRARY, ELM SQUARE, ANDOVER on THURSDAY, January 8, 2004 at 7:00 P.M. on the petition of Michael B. Arthur, 5 Baker Ln., Andover, MA for a variance from the requirements of Article VIII, § 4.1.2 & for a special permit under Article VIII, § 3.3.5 to construct a addition that will not meet dimensional requirements.

Premises affected are located at 5 Baker Lane, Andover,

Executrix, Probate Estate of Robert Lundstrom, 3 Jan St., Woburn, MA for variances from Article VIII, § 3.1.3 C.7, § 3.1.3 C.12(b) & § 3.1.3 C.12(c) and for a special permit under Article VIII, § 3.3.2 to demolish existing buildings and construct a new building for a gas station, convenience store & fast-food restaurant with drive-through that will not meet zoning regulations.

Premises affected are located at 429-431 South Main St., Andover, MA in a SRC District as shown on Assessor's Map 82 as Lot 1D. DANIEL S. CASPER, ESQ., Chairman, BOARD OF APPEALS, December 25, 2003 & January 1, 2004

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be convened on Thursday, January 8, 2004, at 7:00 p.m., in The Hall, Memorial Hall Library, Elm Square, Andover on the application of Andover Portland Avenue Associates, LLC, for a modification of a Comprehensive Permit issued on July 16, 2003 for a 96-unit multi-family rental development under Chapter 40B of the General Laws. The applicant proposes that the affordability component of the project be changed from 25% (24 units) of the total number of units available for rent at not more than 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI) to 20% (20 affordable units) available for rent at not more than 50% AMI.

Premises affected are located at 168-174 River Road and more particularly identified as Lots 5, 6 and 7 on Assessor's Map 166. Plans and documents associated with the project may be viewed in the office of the Board of Appeals, Town Office Building, between the hours of 8:00 a.m., and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. DANIEL S. CASPER, ESQ., Chairman, BOARD OF APPEALS, December 25, 2003 & January 1, 2004

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF HEARING

A public hearing will be held at THE HALL, SECOND FLOOR in MEMORIAL HALL LIBRARY, ELM SQUARE, ANDOVER on THURSDAY, January 8, 2004 at 7:00 P.M. on the petition of James F. Pinho, c/o Vendor Alliance Capital, Ste. 109, 790 Turnpike St., N. Andover, MA & Rita Lundstrom,

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF HEARING

A public hearing will be held at THE HALL, SECOND FLOOR in MEMORIAL HALL LIBRARY, ELM SQUARE, ANDOVER on THURSDAY, January 8, 2004 at 7:00 P.M. on the petition of Andover Youth Foundation, Inc., c/o Dr. Larsen, 28 Andover St., Andover, MA for special permits under Article VIII, § 3.1.3.C.2 & § 3.1.3.C.2 & § 3.1.3.C.2 to construct a youth center.

Premises affected are located at 200 Greenwood Rd., Andover, MA in a SRC & SRC Districts as shown on Assessor's Map 147 as Lot 1. DANIEL S. CASPER, ESQ., Chairman, BOARD OF APPEALS, December 25, 2003 & January 1, 2004

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF HEARING

A public hearing will be held at THE HALL, SECOND FLOOR in MEMORIAL HALL LIBRARY, ELM SQUARE, ANDOVER on THURSDAY, December 8, 2003 at 7:00 P.M. on the petition of Corinne Gedim, 8 Hitchcock Farm Rd., Andover, MA for a variance from Article VIII, § 3.1.3.F.3 & § 10 definitions to conduct performing arts classes.

Premises affected are located at 8 Hitchcock Farm Rd., Andover, MA in an SRC District as shown on Assessor's Map 218 as Lot 8C. DANIEL S. CASPER, ESQ., Chairman, BOARD OF APPEALS, December 25, 2003 & January 1, 2004

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF HEARING

A public hearing will be held at THE HALL, SECOND FLOOR in MEMORIAL HALL LIBRARY, ELM SQUARE, ANDOVER on THURSDAY, January 8, 2004 at 7:00 P.M. on the petition of Continental Healthcare V, Ltd. Partnership, One Charles River Place, Needham, MA 02494 for an extension of Decision No. 3265.

Premises affected are located at 80 Andover St., Andover, MA in a SRC District as shown on Assessor's Map 94 as Lot 4. DANIEL S. CASPER, ESQ., Chairman, BOARD OF APPEALS, December 25, 2003 & January 1, 2004

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF HEARING

A public hearing will be held at THE HALL, SECOND FLOOR in MEMORIAL HALL LIBRARY, ELM SQUARE, ANDOVER on THURSDAY, January 8, 2004 at 7:00 P.M. on the petition of Wayne & Valerie Samuels, 56 William St., Andover, MA for a special permit under Article VIII, § 3.1.3.F.4 to convert an existing basement into a family dwelling unit.

Premises affected are located at 56 William St., Andover, MA in a SRC District as shown on Assessor's Map 69 as Lot 40B. DANIEL S. CASPER, ESQ., Chairman, BOARD OF APPEALS, December 25, 2003 & January 1, 2004

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF HEARING

A public hearing will be held at THE HALL, SECOND FLOOR in MEMORIAL HALL LIBRARY, ELM SQUARE, ANDOVER on THURSDAY, January 8, 2004 at 7:00 P.M. on the petition of CHB Enterprises, 17 Columbia St., Swamscott, MA for a variance from the requirements of Article VIII, § 5.2.10.4 for second attached directory sign.

Premises affected are located at 28 Chestnut St., Andover, MA in a GB District as shown on Assessor's Map 39 as Lot 33. DANIEL S. CASPER, ESQ., Chairman, BOARD OF APPEALS, December 25, 2003 & January 1, 2004

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Commonwealth Of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate And Family Court Department ESSEX Division Docket No.

03P2882EP1

In the Estate of
LOUISE E. ADAMS
Late of ANDOVER
In the County of
ESSEXDate of Death
November 3, 2003
**NOTICE OF
PETITION FOR
PROBATE OF WILL**To all persons in-
terested in the above
captioned estate, a
petition has been
presented praying
that the last will and
codicil of said decedent
be proved and
allowed, and that
JAMES M. ADAMS
of PLAISTOW in the
STATE of New
Hampshire and RAY-
MOND W. RAWL-
INGS of NEWTON in
the County of MID-
DLESEX or some
other suitable person
be appointed execu-
tors, named in the
will to serve without
surety. JOHN E.
LECOMTE, the other
first named Executor
having deceased.IF YOU DESIRE
TO OBJECT
THERE TO, YOU OR
YOUR ATTORNEY
MUST FILE A WRIT-
TEN APPEARANCE
IN SAID COURT AT
SALEM, ON OR BE-
FORETEN
O'CLOCK IN THE
FORENOON (10:00
AM) ON JANUARY
12, 2004.In addition you
must file a written af-
fidavit of objections
to the petition, stat-
ing the specific facts
and grounds upon
which the objection
is based, within thirty
(30) days after the
return day (or such
other time as the
court, on motion with
notice to the petiti-
tioner, may allow) in ac-
cordance with Pro-
bate Rule 16.WITNESS, HON.
JOHN C. STEVENS,
III ESQUIRE, First
Justice of said Court
at SALEM this day,
December 5, 2003.
Pamela Casey O'Brien
Register of
Probate Court
December 25, 2003

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Dennis A. Spero to Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc., dated April 8, 2002 and recorded with the Essex County (Northern District) Registry of Deeds at Book 6768, Page 3, of which mortgage Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc. is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 9:00 a.m. on January 2, 2004, on the mortgaged premises located at 267 Andover Street, Andover, Essex County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT:

The land with the buildings thereon, situated in that part of Andover known as Ballardvale, on the southerly side of the road leading from Ballardvale Village to the Theological Seminary, now known as Andover Street and bounded as follows:

NORTHERLY by said road, there measuring fifty-seven and 50/100 (57.50) feet;

EASTERLY by land now or formerly of Tenney and Little, there measuring one hundred (100) feet;

SOUTHERLY by said land of Tenney and Little, there measuring fifty-seven and 50/100 (57.50) feet; and

WESTERLY by land now or formerly of the Shannon Heirs by a line running North 7 1/4° East, there measuring one hundred (100) feet.

For mortgagor's title see deed recorded with Essex County (Northern District) Registry of Deeds in Book 6768, Page 2.

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE:
A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California Street, Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

WELLS FARGO HOME MORTGAGE, INC.
Present holder of said mortgage
By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
Megan O'Keefe Manzo
150 California Street
Newton, MA 02458
(617) 558-0500

December 11, 18 & 25, 2003

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2-10
Announcements

1. Legal Services

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11-17
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18-24
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26-50
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27 Commercial Property

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29 Investment Property

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LEXUS, 2000, RX300, leather, roof, heated seats, CD changer, several to choose from. #140667A. \$24,995. Starting at. LEXUS, 2002, ES300's, Loaded, Several choices, multiple colors. 22K miles, L40596A, start at \$27,995. LEXUS, 1999, LX 470, tan/leather, fully equipped, high demand vehicle, #140581A, \$30,995. LEXUS, 2001, LS430, all the options, only 26K miles, several to choose from, L40351A, starting at \$41,995. HONDA ACCORD, 2001, V6, EX model, leather, roof, CD, fully equipped, silver on silver, #140512A, \$15,995. INFINITI, 2001, I30, every option including navigation, #140689A, \$27,995. LEXUS, 2000, RX300's, several choices. Fully equipped, #140384, starting at \$27,995. LEXUS, 2002, SC430 hardtop convertibles, white, leather, in stock. Great winter time savings. Navigation, leather heated seats, CD changer, #140356A, starting at \$45,995. LEXUS, 2002, GS430, black cherry with black leather, highly sought after vehicle. \$34,995. NISSAN MAXIMA, 2000, 29K miles, GLE model, all the options, #140696A, \$16,995. CADILLAC SEVILLE, 2001, STS model, top of the line, 26K miles, #140372A, Price to sell at \$23,995. ACURA, 2002, MDX, fully equipped, navigation, touring package, black/ivory leather, 7 passenger, #140881A, \$33,995.

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AUDI, 2000, A6, 2.7T Quattro, 29K miles, auto, leather, moonroof, #AU0654, \$25,100.

AUDI, 2001, A6, 2.7T Quattro, Auto, low miles, leather, moonroof, 3 others to choose from at similar savings. #AU0660, \$28,345.

AUDI, 2002, TT Roadster, 225 Quattro, 6 speed, leather, heated seats, base, AWD, 11K miles, #AU0644, \$29,300.

AUDI, 2001, A4, 4.2L Quattro, leather, moonroof, 225 Quattro, 6 speed, leather, heated seats, base, low miles. #540273A, \$28,830.

AUDI, 2001, A4 6AT Wagon Quattro, leather, moonroof, heated seats, low miles. #A40314A, \$19,845.

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VOLKSWAGEN, 2000 Cabriolet, GL convertible, auto, AC, power windows & locks, stereo, low miles. #N3854A, \$17,880.

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SUBARU 1998, Legacy Bright Wagon, forest green, AWD, 10K highway miles, 1 owner. \$500. Call Doug 978-462-0519.

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